



SOCCER ACTION

JUGOSLOVENSKA
SCENA:15

VIVA ITALIA:14

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ
ΣΕΛΙΣ:15

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George Martin ran and hid for two days in corn fields with four women, also Rumanian refugees. That was just the beginning of the Brunswick-Juventus goalkeeper's struggle to flee from behind the Iron Curtain.

He left his home at 11pm on a summer's night in July and walked for three hours with the women who asked him to take them along and help them out of Rumania to meet their husbands and families who already had gone to the West.

They crossed the border into Yugoslavia at 2 am the following morning and continued hiding in cornfields, advancing towards the Austrian border.

The journey was so tiring, not to mention dangerous, that two of the women gave themselves up to the Yugoslav authorities to face possible deportation back to Rumania.

Martin and the other two survived on raw corn and vegetables out of the ground and by drinking the juice of the young corn.

This was the only way Martin saw himself able to succeed as he feared the locals would call the police if approached by foreigners.

Eventually they realised that the Austrian border was too far away to reach by foot so they hitch-hiked about 400 kilometers after hiding and sleeping in hay stacks out in the open fields.

When they got within reach of the border they made a run for a hill behind which was freedom.

However the tired women could not last any more and 100 meters from the border the Yugoslav army apprehended all three of them.

Martin was separated from the two women in a local refugee jail where he spent 15 days. After that he was transferred to a large refugee camp in Belgrade where he was locked up for four months until all the security checks had been completed.

All this time he pleaded with the Yugoslav authorities to let him go to either America or Australia as he was a goalkeeper and wanted to continue playing. He had played for Jimbolia in the second division and had 11 years of experience behind him.

As a 27-year-old he also had a lot in front of him, and the authorities acknowledged that he was a champion in his own right.

He had worked for the Rumanian police as a clerk and had participated in the police games where he was a champion at 100 meters, shot put, long jump and high jump.

Besides all that he was a top player on the books of First Division side UTA Arad.

The Yugoslavs advised him that if he wanted to continue playing he had better go to Australia as soccer was dead in America.

Martin then went to see the Australian Embassy in Belgrade where he was interviewed by a lady officer who approved his refugee application and even talked to him about the standard of soccer in Australia and how goalkeepers like him were rare down under.

A few days later Martin was on a plane flying to Melbourne.

Continued page 3

Clown prince Martin:locked up for four months after tough trek to freedom

By
KORNEL
KAMPEAN

• George Martin (standing, second from left) with the Brunswick-Juventus team, from left: Margaritis (coach), Martin, Castelli (official), Ward, Brown, Drinowsky, Miranda, Campbell, Sweeney, Canuso (manager), Frant, Michialla, Cullen, mascot Lloyd, Dowie, mascot Zimi, Germania.



Super leagues to save each club \$20,000



• As the NSL prepares to vote on a new format, many clubs have expressed interest in a network of State-based leagues, with national play-offs at the end of the season. Lew Stafra (left), publicity officer of the Victorian Soccer Federation, former president of Green Gully and a former FIFA referee, puts the case for State-based leagues on page 3.

BUNGLE PUTS ROZIC OUT OF ACTION

A bureaucratic bungle in Yugoslavia has sidelined Sydney Croatia's star import, Vedran Rozic, the former captain of Hajduk Split.

Rozic is unable to play again for Sydney Croatia until FIFA investigates the matter.

ASF secretary Brian Emery said the ASF received a telex from the Yugoslav Federation saying that Rozic was clear to play in Australia after May 20. A second telex confirmed that Rozic could play for Sydney Croatia.

Last week, however, the Yugoslav Federation contacted the ASF again to say that it had not received a clearance from Hajduk Split.

"The federation has asked us to withhold Rozic's registration," Emery said.

"We have telexed FIFA with the facts and FIFA will try to find out how it could be that the Yugoslav Federation cleared Rozic twice and then asked for the clearance to be withdrawn.

"It is a farcical situation. We are backing up Croatia's right to use the player, as all the usual procedures were followed before he was registered. The foul-up has occurred at the Yugoslav end."

A product of Hajduk Split's immensely productive youth system, Rozic made his debut for the Adriatic coast club in 1972 and participated in most of its subsequent triumphs, which have included three Yugoslav League and six Yugoslav Cup successes.

This outstanding domestic record has enabled Hajduk to become a regular participant in European club competitions.

Just five months ago, Rozic appeared for the Hajduk team beaten by Tottenham in the UEFA Cup semi final on the away goal ruling.

The away goal ruling also robbed him of possible Champions' Cup glory in 1980, when SV Hamburg won a semi final berth through the same unsatisfactory method.

Although Rozic is best known in Yugoslavia for his loyalty to, and exploits with, Hajduk, he has represented the country with distinction at A, B and Olympic levels.

During the 1980 European Championship qualifying rounds, he wore the Slavs' blue jersey against Spain (twice), Rumania and Cyprus.

Rozic, 30 on November 2, is reported to have made over 700 appearances for Hajduk.

SUMMER SOCCER THE ANSWER

Australian soccer is like the Titanic. It's sinking, and what do we do to keep it afloat? Rearrange the deck chairs.

That witty analogy, attributable not to me but to a prominent NSL club official, refers of course to renewed attempts to remap the National League for next season.

It criticises not these attempts, which are clearly necessary after the failures of the current format, but the falsehood that yet another rearrangement of soccer's most elite competition will solve everything.

My own view on solving everything is that everything will be solved if the playing standard in Australia becomes high enough to attract, and retain, more people.

Full stop. As any entrepreneur from Paul Dainty to Lang Hancock will tell you, nothing sells better than a good product and the sooner soccer begins to calculate a plan to improve its product, the sooner it can afford to forget about useless cosmetics which get it exactly nowhere.

And I wouldn't believe for a moment that to improve soccer's playing standard — that is its entertainment value — is but a hopeless pipedream.

The product can be improved, given only in our...



LES MURRAY

ministration and a turn away from the mentality which suggests soccer prosperity can be reached overnight — a mentality which has seen soccer stumble from one fruitless cosmetic measure to the next for the past 25 years.

But I want to deal here not with my own yearning for better football and better soccer players, but with a concept which may seem just another case of cosmetics to some people yet which is in fact far from it.

The concept is summer soccer, or to call it by its more diplomatic name: a changing of seasons, in which there have been murmurs of renewed interest in recent weeks.

The murmurs are understandable, coming as they do in the middle of the most depressed and depressing season — both crowd and playing standard-wise — in the history of the NSL.

Athletic Field, and thought myself quite brainless for doing so, as Sydney City Hakoah and APIA-Leichhardt did battle, in the most literal sense, in a top-of-the-table clash.

It was the team running first meeting the team running second, historically a perfect recipe for a well-attended soccer match in Sydney.

The remarkable thing is that, by today's standard it WAS well-attended. There must have been all of 1500 people there which that day was treated as a "good crowd".

Need you really say more about where soccer is and how close it must be to falling over the edge?

As I sat among the brave 1500, rugged up to the eyebrows as the August wind blew relentlessly across the ground bringing the temperature down to what couldn't have been more than 12 degrees, I reminisced about some of my more pleasant soccer experiences.

They were of January and February evenings spent at the same ground, in the 1960s when the pre-season Ampol Cup was played exclusively under the lights at the Athletic Field and when the four...

in Wollongong two or three times a week for our soccer night out.

And, notwithstanding the fact that the football is quite different now, I couldn't help betting, as I still bet sitting in this cosy air-conditioned office, that the crowd would have been twice as big had this match been played on a balmy January evening.

I mean, looking at the shivering souls sitting around me, it was not hard to imagine what reaction they would have got from wife and kids to a suggestion that the whole family join the old man on such a masochistic outing.

The most remarkable thing about the summer soccer idea, when first proposed by the ASF's marketers in 1981, was not how revolutionary it was, which it was, but how quickly it was killed off, suffocated in hysterical opposition by, in fact, a minority of soccer people.

"Summer madness!" was the most common cry from people brought up in countries where soccer has a century-old tradition, where it competes with nothing and where it truly would be absurd to try a change of seasons.

But beneath the four-inch high headlines there was little argument of substance offered against the idea. In fact what puzzled me most at the time was all the ballyhoo and emotive response to an idea which — after all — carried no major risk.

I mean, so what if the idea doesn't take off, and unconverted Australians continue to prefer their picnics

Croatia, Newcastle-Rosebud in National Cup final



• Scenes from the Croatia-Newcastle NSL match of two weeks ago, to be repeated in the National Cup final on September 12. Above: Josip Biskic tumbling over Mike Boogaard...



... Tommy Cumming of Croatia, getting the better of Mike Boogaard. Pictures by GEOFF AMPT

Hannah and Biskic knock out J.U.S.T.

By LAURIE SCHWAB

MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Cumming 40th) **FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 0**, National Cup semi-final at Olympic Park, Wednesday night. **Crowd:** 4211. **Referee:** Sam Zeman. **Cautions:** McDowell (J.U.S.T.).

CROATIA: Banovic 6 - Lewis 8, Parton 7, Curcio 7, Hannah 9 - Biskic 9 (inj. sub. 80th), Antolovic (Markovac 85th), Campbell 7, Gojevic 7 - Cumming 8, Brogan 7. **Coach:** Tony Vrzina.

J.U.S.T.: Boland 6 - Tansey 7 - McDowell 8, Hazabent 7 - Karic 7, Bolic 7, Carroll 6, O'Donnell 7 (Tutill 84th) - Lacmanovic 7, Paton 5 (Caban 75th), Lujic 6. **Coach:** Cedo Cirkovic.

J.U.S.T. adopted a tight-marking game in midfield, hoping to stifle Croatia's attacks, but a well-worked

move between Jozo Antolovic, Jim Campbell, David Brogan and Tommy Cumming sent the favorites into the Cup final against Newcastle-Rosebud on September 12.

It was Cumming who scored the goal, with a low, angled drive in the 40th minute, to cap a fine week during which he was selected to the national squad, along with Croatia team mates Tony Curcio and Peter Lewis.

But the stars of the semi-final were left back George Hannah who was back after suspension, and right winger Josip Biskic.

Hannah stopped everyone he challenged in defence, and attacked tirelessly up the left flank. Biskic, as usual, turned

his opponents inside out with his dribbling skill and was unlucky not to score with a shot that hit the crossbar.

The unluckiest player in the field though, was striker David Brogan who should have notched at least three goals with the chances that came his way. His first attempt, on a pass from Cumming in the 19th minute, was saved by Dennis Boland. After getting past Jim Tansey on the touchline in the 56th minute, Brogan shot across goal; with the goal at his mercy; he missed in the 62nd minute after Boland had punched the ball down to him; in the 71st minute he hit the ball too softly after being set up by Biskic who had run past Jamie Paton, Brian O'Donnell and Jim Tansey in a spectacular solo move; and in the 88th minute, Brogan missed again

on a forward pass from Cumming. Those chances apart, J.U.S.T. captain Igor Hazabent prevented a second Croatia goal by clearing a header from Shaun Parton off the goal line. And so Croatia could have won by as many as five, instead of only one.

Yaka Banovic played his first game for Croatia since joining from Derby County, but he had a bad dose of the jitters until he settled down in the second half. Dragan Lacmanovic set up

some attacks for J.U.S.T. with through balls in the first half, but Zdravko Lujic was beaten by Peter Lewis and when he did get into the box on a promising run, he was brought down by Shaun Parton.

In midfield, the J.U.S.T. players dutifully marked their opponents, resulting in much congestion there, but in the end, a touch of brilliance by the Croatia forwards dashed J.U.S.T.'s hopes of clinching its first honor since the NSL started in 1977. Congratulations, however, for getting so close.

With 14 minutes remaining and APJA desperate for goals, tempers ran thin and Peter Tredinnick was sent off after bringing Simon Brandt down.

In the closing seven minutes Newcastle should have helped itself to at least three easy goals.

In the 83rd Derek Todd latched onto a through ball, raced past Pullen and grazed the crossbar with Parks to beat. Three minutes later Simon Brandt did well enough to push his shot through a narrow opening past Parks, but somehow the ball caught the toe of the falling keeper and bounced away.

Tredinnick sent off as APJA topples

By ALEX VESIC

APIA LEICHHARDT 0 **NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD 2** (Todd 4th, Senkalski 42nd) at St George Stadium. **Crowd:** 500. **Referee:** Tim Davies. **Cautions:** Milosevic. **Sent off:** Tredinnick.

APIA: Parks 8 - Bozanic 6, Pullen 7, Gray 6, Brown 6 - Butler 7, Tredinnick 7 (sent off 76th), De Ceglie 6 - Bradley 7 (Genovese 69th - 6), Caban 5, Morsello 6.

NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD: Gosling 8 - Maier 8, Boogaard 8, Owens 7, Thompson 7 - McGuire 7, Senkalski 9, Brandt 7, Milosevic 7 - Todd 8, Allen 7 (Jones 83rd).

From the moment Ralph Maier fired a 30-metre pldriver which warmed the hands of APJA goalkeeper Bobby Parks you sensed these Rosebuds from Newcastle had found new determination.

They swarmed the APJA goal in the opening minutes and should have had a goal when Joe Senkalski broke through to face Parks in the fourth minute. Senkalski lobbed Parks but Pullen was on hand to clear off the line. Dean Milosevic took the corner kick and Derek Todd was at the near post to head past Parks for the opening goal.

With APJA at full strength (apart from Bertogna), it was assumed (wrongly) by most that it was only a matter of time before APJA would take control.

It just wasn't to be. Senkalski's free kick in the 36th took a deflection to sail past bewildered Parks for the second and last goal of the match.

For a brief moment at the end of the first half APJA came through with Tony Morsello having a chance to cut Rosebud's lead to one goal. He faced Gosling, then left-footed his drive aiming for the left hand corner, but Clint Gosling was in brilliant touch, making a superb save to keep his side two goals in front.

Senkalski, Newcastle's favorite son (apart from Craig Johnston who was watching the game from the warmth of the Press box) made one mistake all night. On the stroke of an hour he decided to back pass to Gosling but instead he found Kerry Caban who simply turned to face the Rosebud keeper, then shot straight at him. Gosling fumbled the shot, catching it at his second attempt.

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Postecoglou & Co.—from under 10s to the NSL

Young Hellas stars want to take on NSW's best

By LAURIE SCHWAB

South Melbourne Hellas fans tend to feel a bit sorry for young players like Angie Postecoglou, John Kanesoulis and Con Kiakos who come into the senior team as spare parts men to replace injured or suspended stars, and then are dropped again when the side is back to full strength.

No hard feelings by the players themselves, though.

They're happy enough just to get a go.

The established stars, however, must be feeling a bit of pressure.

When Postecoglou, for example, played left back against Makedonia two weeks ago, he ranked alongside Robbie Dunn and Bobby Russell as one of the heroes of the game.

Not only did he set up the winning goal for Hellas's Doug Brown, but he also stopped two at the other end.

Rarely has Hellas had as many talented young players — and the reason can be traced back to the under 10s of about nine years ago.

It was in that team that Postecoglou, Manny Anezakis and Greg Kassidas got their start. A couple of years later — at about under 12 level — they were joined by George Kalogeros and Peter Vardaxis, and so emerged the nucleus of today's Hellas youth team, which is on top of the Victorian youth league ladder.

Participation in the Victorian State League last year marked a crucial stage in the development of these players.



When Hellas won a berth in the State League, it decided to take the opportunity to provide its best young players with experience.

They finished last, but despite the disappointments and the hard knocks, the players matured remarkably.

"Losing every week was very hard for us, of course, but as a learning process, it was tremendous," said Postecoglou, who turned 19 on Monday of last week.

"When the Victorian Youth League started this year, our entire State League team took a place in that competition, and with the pressure off us, we suddenly found it much easier, our confidence went up and we were able to express ourselves much more freely on the park."

"Our coach, Tony Brown, has done a tremendous job of organising the team, and everyone's still improving a hell of a lot."

Postecoglou advocates an end-of-year play-off between the winner of the Victorian Youth League and the champion of the NSW-based National Youth League, to determine a national youth champion. "I'd be interested to see how the standard compares between the two competitions," Postecoglou said.

Quite a few of the Hellas youth players have a strong family tradition in soccer. Postecoglou's father, Jim, played as a defender in Greece; Jim Kassidas, father of Greg, also played in Greece; Steve Kalogeros, father of George, was a star with Hel-



Angie Postecoglou (right) of SM-Hellas challenges Sydney City Hakoah forward Grant Lee.

father, Leo, is the Hellas president.

It's quite amazing that Postecoglou failed to be chosen to represent Victoria as a junior. However, he did play for regional representative teams and the Prahran High School team which he captained, won the junior and intermediate all-high schools championship.

His team-mates at Prahran High included Harry Marvillis who now plays for the Hellas youth team, and brilliant forward Ayhan Patsaman who's starring alongside former Soccer Joe Piccone at Royal Richmond.

Postecoglou was a midfielder throughout his junior years. And in the under 10s, he was runner-up to Greg Kassidas in the goalscoring honors.

"My switch to defence in the State League last year, was quite easy. I'm glad I made the switch, because it probably helped me to get senior games this year. Midfield positions are much harder to get."

"Of course getting into the side in any position is hard enough. You displace an Australian international every time you get in," Postecoglou said.

"It's really great to play alongside fellows like Charlie Egan, Alan Davidson, Oscar Crino, Steve Blair and Doug Brown. They're brilliant play-

While he's regarded this year as part of his education, Postecoglou intends to go all out to win a regular senior position in 1985. Asked to pinpoint the strongest aspects of his game, he said: "I'm really

determined, and I don't worry about whom I'm up against. I just go out to give my best."

Postecoglou is a first-year economics student at Monash University.

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Killing off our best youngsters

In the recent international series more than half of the players in the Australian 'A' and 'B' squads were produced in Australia.

Talent like that possessed by Farina, Davidson, Franken, Patikas, etc is equal to that of players of their age anywhere in the world.

Unfortunately there are times when I despair for these lads as I really feel their abilities are not appreciated by supporters.

In fact if some of these players packed their suitcases tomorrow and decided to play overseas I would not be surprised.

Certainly they now command very close attentions from opponents, I suppose that is part of the game.



TIM WHITE
Victorian coaching director

coaches constantly assign man-marking jobs on some of the aforementioned players.

There's nothing wrong with the principle of that decision except that occasionally the marking is carried out from the neck down.

Coaches and referees can do something about this on the field but the players suffer abuse from another quarter, the supporters.

I was shocked at a game recently when I heard the abuse and name-calling of young talented Australian players, by

crimes were that they were playing well and they played for the opponents.

Those young Australian players have every right to resent the verbal abuse which they suffer simply because they have sufficient talent to play at the highest level in their own country.

When I witness such incidents I worry about the credibility of the advice that I and other coaches give to young players as we try to guide them towards achieving a place at the highest level in this country.

clubs would not relish losing their best players for a whole year. "I can see some clubs coming after me with machine guns, but really if we want to make the 1986 World Cup finals, some sacrifices must be made. All I ask is that people think seriously about it. They may realise it is not as outlandish as it seems. I know it is a bit of a dream, but somebody had to look to the future."

Inevitably, national team coach Allan Jones backed his chairman's proposition, but elsewhere the overall reaction was lukewarm.

NZ boss wants Kiwis in national league

By PAUL MOON

New Zealand Football Association chairman Charlie Dempsey wants the NZ national team to participate in the Rothmans' National League next season to aid its World Cup chances.

Dempsey stresses that the idea is purely his own and has not been discussed at New Zealand Football Association level.

The concept of a national selection competition in its domestic competition to gain cohesion as a unit is not entirely new.

The most recent example occurred in the North American Soccer League when Team America functioned for a season before folding due to financial problems without having sufficient time to prove itself.

Dempsey acknowledges that New Zealand's leading

improve considerably when players in supporting their own teams can still appreciate the skills of opponents irrespective of the ethnic origins of any team.

It is essential in my opinion that Melbourne teams play Sydney teams and so on.

Certainly the last challenge round was a financial disaster. Surely the main reasons for that must have been poor planning if one considers that Melbourne Hellas v Sydney City Hakoah, Melbourne Croatia v Sydney Olympic, Heidelberg United v APJA were all played in Melbourne on the same day. However I can't help feeling that whatever the reconstructing of the National League format, in the end the old-fashioned method of playing the opposition at home and away throughout the season is the

Super leagues to save each club \$20,000

How long will it take for the NSL administrators to admit that the national league concept in all its forms, is unworkable and impractical and that it's putting clubs into a position where they may destroy themselves.

It's my view that the State federations need not just counter any moves to change or enlarge the NSL, but to put forward alternatives that would ensure not only the survival of the NSL clubs but to make it worthwhile for them to consider returning to a profitable and sensible State-based competition which will give each club the opportunity to maximise its potential.

Victoria has supplied nine of its best clubs to the NSL and these clubs committed themselves to spending millions of dollars in an attempt to develop a successful national league.

It is to their credit that they are still in existence, but if they persevere with the national league concept, it is only a matter of time before they are devastated. The purpose of this article is to put forward an attractive format of State-based super leagues, with a national play-off competition at the end of the season.

But first, let's remember what happened last year, when the NSL was enlarged and split into two. At that time, we agreed to give the NSL clubs voting power on the Victorian Soccer Federation and that there would be automatic promotion and relegation between the NSL and the State Leagues. In addition, the States were to have representation on an NSL committee, which was to have been chaired by ASF president Sir Arthur George. That committee never has met, yet the Victorian Soccer Federation has had NSL officials John Branov and Tony Kovac at all our board meetings.

Now, when the NSL's voting powers on the VSF are about to be brought into effect, we learn through the NSL's paper on league reorganisation that promotion from the State Leagues should no longer be automatic.

That suggestion clearly contravenes

All States represented in national play-offs!



By LEW STAFRAZE
Victorian Soccer Federation
publicity and promotions officer

the NSL-State accord worked out last year, and so I believe steps should be taken at the VSF annual meeting to deny the NSL a vote on the VSF.

More to the point, though, the States must create their own premier, or super leagues, made up of the present NSL clubs and the best from the present State Leagues.

At the end of the season, the ASF should run the national play-offs...probably from September to November.

In Victoria, the VSF can offer a top-class league, with prize-money of \$25,000 plus \$5,000 for a Cup competition to be contested only by the premier league clubs.

The league could have its own administrator, promotions, publicity, and marketing, all for an affiliation fee of \$7,000.

Of that figure, \$5,000 would be for the running of the competition, including wages, and the other \$1,000 would be invested by the various federations on a short-term basis, and used to pay for the running of the national play-offs at the end of the year.

In Victoria, the NSL clubs already pay \$1,500 each for VSF membership, so they'd be up for only \$5,500 more.

Yet under the NSL executive committee's proposal for league restructuring, the clubs would be up for about \$27,000, it would need a turnover of about \$120,000. All that work, and for what?

NSL clubs have been paying high affiliation fees for years now. Had they kept that money in the bank, they would have been able to buy their own grounds and put up grandstands and social clubs.

I propose that at the end of the season, the national play-offs would be staged without any competition from Federation matches in lower leagues.

Those to take part in the play-offs would be: the top two from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and NSW and the top team only from Tasmania, Western Australia, Northern NSW and the ACT, making a total of 12.

Matches would be played as double-headers on weekends and mid-week, at selected venues. It's obvious that a sponsor could be found for such a competition, and sponsorship money would be cream on top of the cake, as we already would have the funds to run the series.

Prize-money offered in Victoria would come from the VSF's sponsor, Buffalo Sports.

People who say that State premier leagues would be a step backwards are speaking politically, not logically. The game would gain, rather than lose.

Possible qualification for the national play-offs would provide every club with an incentive, and also rekindle interest among spectators.

The clubs themselves have done their bit in developing good grounds and spectator facilities. Now it is up to us, the States, to give them a viable competition free of the problems that now exist in the NSL set-up.

Contrary to what some NSL administrators seem to believe, State super leagues would not be deserted by the fans. These administrators point to the recent international series and blame that for the decrease in attendances, yet

the NSL itself is to blame. Fans are creatures of habit. They want to see their team every week. They didn't see those teams during the international series, so perhaps they found new interests during that time. Let's not forget though, that the NSL, through a crazy fixtures programme that has a club paying away from home perhaps three weeks in a row, has been alienating its fans for a long time.

This problem would not exist in State super leagues.

And let's face it, the NSL, especially this year, has been nothing more than a glorified State League competition — what with its regions and sub-regions.

The league argues that the Queensland and South Australian teams would suffer by returning to State leagues, because those States do not have strong competitions. As far as Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City are concerned, though, they aren't drawing crowds in the National League. Can anyone really say that they will draw less crowds in a State League?

And in South Australia, I'm sure that Adelaide Juventus and West Adelaide Hellas would continue attracting their spectators against clubs like Azzurri, Croatia and Polonia. And the latter three would draw bigger crowds because the fans want to see them playing against the "big two."

And let's reiterate that these clubs immediately would save \$20,000 in affiliation fees!

It's more than that, really, for in addition to the affiliation fees they have been paying this year (the NSL currently is trying to get an additional \$10,000 from each club) the cost of air fares for the intra-conference challenge rounds would be deducted from gate receipts.

I speak as the ninth member of the VSF board of management — elected from the floor and independent of any club or league. My only concern is to see soccer going ahead and to see that every club steers clear of ruin.

Can any responsible NSL official stand up in front of his committee this week and ask for \$27,000 for NSL affiliation in the light of all the league's past failures? I doubt it.

Martin: the goalie who dribbles forwards!

From page one

It was on November 19, 1983 that Martin arrived in Melbourne after his four-month ordeal. Over here he met up with loan Pit of Sunshine-George Cross, also a refugee against whom he played back home in the Second Division.

Martin recalls his time at the Midway Hostel:

"Someone heard that I was a goalkeeper and advised Melbourne Croatia. Frank Burin spoke to me and wanted to sign me up but because the Christmas break was on, there were no training sessions at the time."

"I was patiently waiting, but as there were no things for me to do, I became a bit restless and thought that they had forgotten about me."

"Then I got a visit from Juventus manager — Joe Coruso who brought me to the club and after a slow start and some problems with the clearance, I am ready to show the people what a goalkeeper can do in a game."

The clown prince of soccer, as he has been nicknamed for his antics on the field, believes that the role of a goalkeeper is similar to the role of the last defender. To justify his remark he quoted the great Rumanian international and current selector Mircea Lucescu: "A goalkeeper has to know how to dribble like the last man in defence."

And Martin says that in Rumania it is required of him to do so. He says that he has more of his unusual style to show the Juventus supporters who appear to love every move he makes.

His confidence is growing increasingly as he accustoms himself to becoming not only the most spectacular goalkeeper but also the best, as in the five games before last Sunday he had conceded only one goal.

Martin got his chance after a long wait and only after Sean Keogh had gone through a poor period.

The big break Martin was waiting for finally arrived in a game against Marconi in Sydney where he performed miracles to keep a clean sheet and help his club win.

During the next few games he showed that not only could he keep goal but he also could make strikers look like fools by dribbling past them way out of his goal.

Cough John Margaritis does not totally oppose Martin's style but does insist that he talks to his team mates during a game.

Martin told me that he wants to show the fans who pay money to come and see him that to play soccer you use your head and feet, but your mouth as little as possible and he assures us that his antics will not stop here.

Finally he is happily settled down, romantically owns a house and is working for Schlavetto Brothers.

He gets a lot of understanding at work as they are one of Juventus' major sponsors and he is happy with the way of life here.

The clown prince of soccer will continue to influence a new style of goal keeping which he claims is as natural to him as one of his spectacular dives.

Dakos move threatened

A Sydney Olympic won't allow star defender Tony Dakos to trial with Yugoslav giant Red Star Belgrade until the end of this current Australian season and Olympic is considering taking action against its former youth coach Ljubo Gokjovic for what it claims was an "illegal" approach to Dakos on behalf of Red Star coach Gokjovic.

Red Star has invited Dakos to spend time there this month and next, but Olympic coach Manfred Schaefer is adamant that the club won't release Dakos until the completion of the national finals.

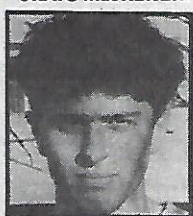
"I'm annoyed that this guy from Auburn (Gokjovic now coaches there) approached Tony without first approaching the club. Tony came up to me a few weeks ago and told me that an overseas club was interested in him but he wouldn't say which one at the time," said Schaefer.

"This kind of approach just isn't on and we'll take action against Gokjovic. Imagine what, say South Melbourne Hellas, would think if they heard that Manfred Schaefer had arranged for one of their players to play with a German club? No, there's a right way and a wrong way to go about these matters and as far as Olympic is concerned this matter hasn't been handled properly."

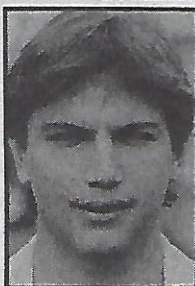
"Look, I'm happy for Tony. It will be a great experience for him. He'll benefit and so will Olympic. But there's just no way that we can afford to release him until the final five competition is over."

Dakos is discussing the matter with Olympic president Jim Petinella but it seems almost certain that the Olympic committee will reinforce Schaefer's stance.

CRAIG MACKENZIE



Tony Dakos



Robert Markovac

First step to Olympics?

The young Socceroos who will defend the Merlion Cup in Singapore from October 14 to 28 probably will play as the Australian Olympic team.

It would be the first step towards eventual participation in the next Olympic Games soccer tournament.

Australia hasn't taken part in an Olympics since 1956.

Under new eligibility rules, countries outside Europe and South America can play in both the World Cup and the Olympic Games providing they don't earn the majority of their living from soccer.

Jim Shoulders, the national youth coach and

also soccer coach of the Australian Institute of Sport, will be in charge of the team that goes to Singapore.

He said it would be made up mainly of players who will contest the World Youth Championship qualifying tournament next February, plus a number of older players.

However, no players will be chosen from teams involved in the NSL finals season.

Youth players in the running include: Robert Markovac (Melbourne Croatia), John Kanosoulis (SM-Hellas), Ali Kotzamechalis (Springvale), Alex Bundalo (Wollongong), Chris Kalantzis (Sydney Olympic), John Gregson (Melito Eagles), Warren Spink, Andrew Bernal, Mirko Runje, Paul Jones, Sian Ingham, Tony Burke, David Sharpe, Peter Andrews (A.I.S.) Peter Pet-

kovaki (St. George), and John Panagis (West Adelaide Hellas).

Shoulder will name a 24-man squad soon and then prune it to 18.

He will invite the best players from three camps conducted so far, to a final camp in Canberra on September 25 and 27.

Those who do not go to Singapore, will be in camp under Shoulder's A.I.S. assistant, Ron Smith, from October 25 to 28, and will play matches in Albury and Wagga Wagga, as part of the lead-up to the WYC matches.

Australia's opponents in the Merlion Cup will include Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, a team from Holland and a team from Argentina.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

SUMMER SOCCER THE ANSWER

From page one

and barbecues in the summer months and not come to the soccer?

The season gets changed back, we rearrange the deck chairs once again — and if nothing has been gained — surely nothing has been lost.

That the idea carried no major risk appeared to have been just one fact overlooked by its opponents.

But there were plenty more published at the time in a swank, studiously prepared report which numbered 180 pages, and with its appendix, weighed two kilos.

The most straightforward argument in favor of summer soccer was, and is, that soccer thereby would not compete directly with other types of football.

That was after all the reason the Americans chose to play in summer and, even with the current decline in the fortunes of the NASL, would not dream of reverting to winter.

But to pretend that a fear of Rugby is the only reason one might entertain playing in summer is to totally miss the point.

The overriding strength of the pro-summer argument is that soccer, far from relying on possible defectors from the Rugby populace, in fact needs to boost its patronage from a passive, almost dormant sector of the population — people who find it inconvenient or uncomfortable to attend any sport in the winter but who come, naturally, out of their hibernation in summer.

But that was all pie in the sky to some of the idea's opponents who conveniently over-

looked many other persuasive facts contained in the report.

Let's take another look at some of them.

FACT: Summer soccer would not be some lunatic aberration exclusive to Australia. There are at least 16 countries in the world playing soccer in the summer, all but two of them from the southern hemisphere. Apart from the U.S. and Canada, there is South Africa, no less than 11 countries from the rather warm continent of Asia, and, oh yes, Brazil, where they tell me, some of the best football in the world is played.

FACT: Currently Australia is the only country in the world which both has a major competitor to soccer for an audience and elects to play its soccer in the same season as that competitor. It's like opening a jewellery shop across the road from Tiffany's — and that, folks, is madness.

FACT: Contrary to the mongers of fear over the mid-summer heat, evening temperatures in the hottest month of January average in the low to mid 20s, no higher in fact than daytime temperatures in the months of March, April, late September and October, when soccer is currently being played.

FACT: Matches can be called off because of extreme heat in summer, as they are being called off because of extreme rain in winter (although matches have never been called off because of extreme cold).

FACT: No medical authority, including our much-respected Dr Brian Corrigan, spoke against summer soccer. From them there

seems no fear of the temperatures or even of the humidity provided some precautions are taken.

FACT: The original report proposed that the season takes a three-week break between Christmas and the second week in January. This would mean that the real summer heat would affect only about nine weeks of a 30-odd week season, and soccer would not compete with the peak holiday period.

FACT: The report also insisted that matches are played at night, preferably on a week night, leaving people free on weekends to pursue their other forms of summer entertainment.

FACT: And where soccer in this particular country is concerned this is a very big FACT. Media, particularly newspaper, coverage would increase in summer as opposed to the winter when the papers clamor over each other in a quest to woo the League or Rules public.

FACT: Because no one suggests that ALL soccer changes to summer, all the people actively involved in soccer outside the national league would suddenly become potential spectators. If you don't believe that, just ask one or two of the players from the country's hundreds of amateur clubs who had to play games while they could have been watching Juventus play in June.

And there's one more FACT which is more a personal kind of mine but which I'll amplify anyway.

And that concerns the insane pace with which our game is increasingly played, something the warmer conditions of summer might just be able to remedy.

At the moment, it seems sheer speed and physical brutality — all too often misnamed as "character" and "application" — is sufficient to overcome the technical limitations of our players.

The violent, tackle-after-tackle staccato that characterises every game is, I believe, soccer's biggest killer and the thing that keeps away if not those who have never been to a soccer match, certainly those who would otherwise like to come.

Playing the game at 23 degrees rather than 12, might slow things down just a little and players might end up with time and room to play the ball rather than the man.

Which reminds me of the players, many of whom seemed to have objected, perhaps naturally, to the idea of summer soccer.

In fact, if you follow my line of thinking where summer soccer equals slower games equals more room for skill, it is the players who might benefit most of all.

And then, of course, the fans who, as I said somewhere in this article, need better soccer.

In any case, at the moment we don't give them good soccer.

What we do give them is mediocre soccer and ask them to shiver through it, expecting them in vain to leave their cosy loungerooms distinctly non-mediocre overseas soccer they get on television.

Les Murray hosts Network 10's "Match of the Day" on Sundays, "On The Ball" on Mondays and Tuesdays, "World Soccer" on Saturdays and Fridays and "International Sports Magazine" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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Can Penrith, Lions hang on?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Can Brisbane Lions and Penrith qualify for the NSL finals? Both are unexpectedly among the top five, with the Lions having a slightly better chance of staying there this week, as they look good enough to beat Melita Eagles, who have won one and drawn three of their past 11 games.

Penrith may find it more difficult, as its opponent, St. George Budapest, is fighting desperately to avoid relegation and although David Ratcliffe is out injured, Dez Marton is back in top form up front.

Melita, Blacktown and Sydney Croatia are waiting to pounce should Penrith slip up, while in the other conference, Footscray J.U.S.T. could take advantage of a loss by Lions or Juventus, although Green Gully and Makedonia are also still in the running.

At the top of the National Conference, South Melbourne Hellas has an excellent chance of replacing Heidelberg-Alexander by beating Melbourne Croatia, while Heidelberg has a difficult task against Juventus.

Hellas may have Carl Halford back against Croatia at Middle Park, and with Oscar Crino at his best in midfield, Hellas should maintain the fine form it showed against J.U.S.T. Croatia coach Tony Vrzina was contemplating team changes, as he was unhappy with the form of Peter Lewis and Jim Campbell, both of whom were replaced during the loss to Heidelberg last Sunday, and also Shaun Parton.

If changes are made, we could see Keith Adams and Drago Deankovic taking the full back positions and George Hannah playing as stopper. Robert Markovic is expected to return to the attack, meaning Tommy Cunningham will drop back into the midfield. Heidelberg is unlikely to make any changes against Juventus, but although it played well against Croatia, it will be tougher against Juventus, which places more emphasis on defence than Croatia does. Coach John Margaritis will be spending the week working out a man-marking plan to stop Heidelberg. By the same token, though, the Heidelberg defence won't be giving anything away, so the result could be a draw. No-one gets the better of Don Macleod, Charlie Yankos and Jeff Oliver.

Sydney Olympic's man-marking style, inspired by Manfred Schaefer, and garnished with the ball skills of Patikas, Katholos, Soper, Kalantzis and Co should end Blacktown's top-five ambitions, and Sydney Croatia, without Vedran Rotic (see page one) looks doomed against APIA.

Makedonia dropped Gary Cole last week and installed Sean Lane and Claude Lucchesi as the new striking partnership, resulting in a goal by each of them against Adelaide Juventus last Sunday.

Green Gully's answer to Lane and Lucchesi comes in the form of Paul Lewis and Les Carter, and the partnership most effective at Green Gully Reserve on Sunday will knock the opposing team out of top-five calculations.

Team of the week

In brackets: number of appearances in team of the week

McKIE (2)	McINTOSH (2)	McWILLAN (3)	HIERN (2)
(Heidelberg)	(Penrith)	(Makedonia)	(WA-Hellas)

R. STEWART (1)	VASSALLO (1)	VALENTINE (1)
(Brisbane Lions)	(Green Gully)	(Heidelberg)

O'DONNOR (1)	WINN (3)	KALANTZIS (1)
(Blacktown)	(Heidelberg)	(Syd. Olympic)

This week's NSL matches with likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY
NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD v. Adelaide City Juventus at Adamstown Oval, 3pm.

SUNDAY
SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v. Melbourne Croatia at Middle Park, 3pm.

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. v. Sunshine-George Cross at Schindler Reserve, 3pm.

Green Gully v. PRESTON MAKEDONIA at Green Gully Reserve, 3pm.

B.U. Juventus v. Heidelberg-Alexander (draw) at Olympic Park No. 2, 3pm.

Canberra Arrows v. West Adelaide Hellas at Bruce Stadium, 2 pm.

Melita Eagles v. BRISBANE LIONS at Melita Stadium, 3pm.

Penrith v. ST. GEORGE BUDAPEST at Cook Park, 3pm.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v. Brisbane City at Sydney Athletic Field, 3pm.

Sydney Croatia v. APIA-LEICHHARDT at King Tomislav Park, 3pm.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v. Blacktown at Pratten Park, 3pm.

Wollongong v. MARCONI at Wollongong Showgrounds, 3pm.

Green Gully will have Bobby McGuinness back after suspension, while Makedonia will be unchanged.

Sydney Hakoah, the runaway leader of the Australian Conference, regains Steve O'Connor and Jean-Paul Demargny after suspension for its game against Brisbane City, but Newcastle-Rosebud midfielder John McQuarrie is suspended from the game against Adelaide Juventus on Saturday.

Hakoah, incidentally, has been trying to reschedule its game to Saturday. Fans should check the daily papers.

Wade advances
Paul Wade of Green Gully moved to within four votes of leader John Bradley (APIA) in the voting for the \$1500 Boral Bricks Player of the Year award at the weekend.

And Dave McIntosh of Penrith also made a strong surge and now is 14 points behind Bradley with five matches — or a possible 30 points — to go.

Sergio Melita of Adelaide Juventus also advanced, and is in fourth place, with 54 votes.

Doug Brown of SM-Hellas scored at the weekend and now is only two goals behind John Kosmina of Sydney Hakoah. The top scorer in the NSL will get \$1000 from Boral Bricks.

Paul Lewis, top scorer in the Victorian State League with 31 goals last season, now has 11 and is expected to mount a strong challenge to the leaders.

Leading vote-getters:
73. Bradley (APIA)
69. Wade (G. Gully)
59. McIntosh (Pen)
54. Melita (AC)
53. Franken (Can), McDo-well (JUST)
52. Biskie (M. Cr.)
46. Jackson (BL), Dunn (Mak)

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 2 (Papadopoulos, Panagis) SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 900. Ratings by Robert Lusech:

WEST ADELAIDE: Sproul 8 — McGregor 7, McGachey 8, Honeyman 8, Hiern 9 — Panagis 8, Manos 8, Brown 7 — Papadopoulos 6, Malavazos 6, Kriticos 5. Coach: Sam Salabasidis.
SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS: Costello 6 — Campbell 7, Taylor 8, O'Reilly 7, Scerri 7 — Jovanovic 8, Faulkner 8, McLaren 8 — McGorran (Pitt 5), Latif 5, Toal 6. Coach: Billy Wilkinson.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. Hiern (WA), 5. McLaren (GC), 4. Faulkner (GC), 3. Manou (WA), 2. Honeyman (WA), 1. Taylor (GC).

GREEN GULLY 2 (Lewis 12th, 86th) BRISBANE CITY 0 at Green Gully Reserve. Attendance: 600 (estimate). Ratings by Peter Desira:

GREEN GULLY: Denys 7, Smart 7, McLelland 7, Cannell 8, Hogben 7, Wade 8, Smallman 8, Vassallo 9, Williams 7, Carter 9, Lewis 7. Coach: Bobby McLachlan.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 8; Fabrizio 7 (O'Malley 71st) Perry 8, Liddell 7, Milonovic 7, Swan 6, Firsiroti 7, Hamilton 7, Mengotti 6, Scriggins 6, Brownfield 6 (Waters 88th). Coach: Joe Gilroy.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. Carter (GG), 5. Vassallo (GG), 4. Wade (GG), 3. Wishart (BC), 2. Smallman (GG), 1. Scriggins (BC).

BRISBANE LIONS 2 (Anderson 1st and 13th) BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (own goal Farrow 55th) at Richmond. Crowd: 1183. Ratings by Ricky Rosso:

LIONS: Farrow 6; Jackson 8, Vasquez 7, Hunter 7, Niven 8; R. Stewart 9, J. Stewart 8, Junna 7; Anderson 7, Daunt 8, McDonald 7, (McKimmie half time, 6. Coach: Gordon Arrowsmith.

JUVENTUS: Martin 7, Geremia 6, Drinocky 7, Brown 7, Campbell 6; Lloyd 7, Dowie 8, Miranich 7, Cullen 8, Sweeney 6 (Ward half time), Zinn 7. Coach: John Margaritis.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. R. Stewart (BL), 5. Daunt (BL), 4. Cullen (J), 3. Dowie (J), 2. Jackson (BL), 1. J. Stewart (BL).

ST. GEORGE BUDAPEST 3 (Marton 4th & 46th, Koczka 19th) NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 815. Ratings by Lou Udovitch:

ST. GEORGE: Greedy 5, Sken 8, Ratcliffe (Batten 5), 15th, M. O'Shea 7, Ricoy 6 — Barton 7, Stone 7, Petkovski 7, Slater 7, Koczka 7, Marton 8. Coach: Frank Arok.

NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD: Gosling 7 — Maier 7, Boogaard 7, Owens 6, Thomson 7 — Brandt 5, Senkalski 6, McQuarrie 6 (sent off 62nd), Jones 5 — Todd 5, Allen 6 (Kerby 6, 46th). Coach: Willie Gallagher.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. Christopoulos (Can), 5. Sken (St. G), 4. Boogaard (N), 3. Stone (St. G), 2. Barton (St. G), 1. Maier (N).

WOLLONGONG 0 CANBERRA 1 (Gaffney own goal, 49th) at Dapto Showground. Crowd: Approximately 150. Ratings by Phillip McCall:

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff 6 — Green 7, Viletstra 7, Gaffney 7, Condran 6 — Kerr 6, Willis, Kotamandis 6 — Beggs 6, Corradini 6, Bundalo 7. Coach: Adrian Alston.

CANBERRA: Economopoulos 7 — Ontong 7, Christopoulos 8, Harkins 7, Jones — Sermanni 6, Mihailidis 6, Bryant 7, Perinovic 6, Gibson 6, Coe 6, Devo 6, Collins 6.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
H'BERG-ALEXANDER.....	13	6	4	34	18	32
SM-HELLAS.....	14	3	6	39	18	31
MELB. CROATIA.....	11	7	5	34	25	29
BRISB. LIONS.....	10	4	9	34	24	24
B.U. JUVENTUS.....	10	4	9	26	35	24
Footscray JUST.....	9	4	10	26	26	22
Green Gully.....	8	5	10	30	31	21
Makedonia.....	8	4	11	37	33	20
Ad. C. Juventus.....	8	4	11	26	28	20
Brisbane City.....	8	4	11	16	28	20
West Adel.Hellas.....	7	4	12	35	41	18
S.Geo.Cross.....	4	6	13	19	46	14

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
SYD. C. HAKOAH.....	15	6	2	56	17	36
SYD.OLYMPIC.....	12	7	4	47	24	31
APIA-LEHARDT.....	11	6	6	38	28	28
MARCONI.....	9	6	8	42	33	24
PENRITH.....	7	9	7	25	31	23
Melita Eagles.....	7	8	8	21	26	22
Blacktown.....	8	6	9	33	40	22
Syd. Croatia.....	6	9	8	27	35	21
St.Geo. Budapest.....	6	8	9	32	34	20
Canberra.....	9	1	13	35	38	19
Newc.-Rosebud.....	8	3	12	28	48	19
Wollongong.....	4	4	15	15	49	12

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BORAL BRICKS

We can help you build it.

45. Hoare (Black), Yankos (H'berg).
44. Patikas (SO).
43. Kosmina (SC).
42. McMillan (Mak).
41. Bertogna (APIA), Egan (SM).
40. Gibson (Pen), P. Tredinnick (APIA).
Top scorers:
18. Kosmina (SC).
16. Brown (SM).
11. Lowe (Mak), Katholos (SO), Arnold (S. Cr.), Lewis (G. Gully), Winn (H'berg).
10. Jankovics (Mak).

Bradley (APIA).
R. Brown (Mak), Patikas (SO), Marton (St. G), Cairney (BL), Patterson (H'berg), Konstantopoulos (WA).
8. McCulloch (Mak), Lujic (JUST), Jackson (Pen), Farina (Can), Brandt (Newc.).
7. Soper (SO), Bryant (Can), C. Caban (APIA), Fletcher (SC), Daunt (BL), Brogan (M. Cr.), Gojevic (M. Cr.), Egan (SM), Panagis (WA).

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (Lane 21st, Lucchesi 50th) ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 1500. Ratings by Ken Kontra:

MAKEDONIA: Wilson 7 — McMillan 9, Dunn 8, Dobson 8, Opasinis 7 — Heys 7, (Petrovski 70th), Flavell 7, Lioski 8, Campbell 7, Lane 7, Lucchesi 8. Coach: Frank McAleer.

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS: McNally 8, Shillabea 7, Flounders 7, Nyskhus 8, Tobin 7, De Vito 6 (Lugor 70th), Villani 6, Melita 8, Maxwell 6. Coach: Edmund Kren.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. McMillan (Mak), 5. Dunn (Mak), 4. Melita (Juv), 3. Iloski (Mak), 2. Nyskhus (Juv), 1. Dobson (Mak).

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 3 (Brown 14th, Crino 30th, 76th) FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 0 at Schindler Reserve. Crowd: about 3,500. Ratings by Craig MacKenzie:

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Laumets 7, Russell 7, Kalitaditis 7, Blair 8, Postecoglou 6, Davidson 7, Zvendorn 7, Croni 7, Kanesoulis 7, Brown 7, Egan 8. Coach: Len McKendry.

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.: Boland 5, McDowell 6, Tansey 6, Hazabent 5, Karic 5, Belic 5, O'Donnell 6 (Paton 73rd), Tutill 5, Carroll 5, Lacmanovic 3, Lukic 4. Coach: Cedo Cirkovic.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. Egan (SMH), 5. Blair SMH, 4. Zvendorn (SMH), 3. Russell (SMH), 2. Laumets (SMH), 1. Crino (SMH).

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 2 (Winn 20th & 64th) at Olympic Park. Crowd about 6000. Ratings by Laurie Schwab:

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Banovic 6 — Lewis 6 (Adams 66th), Curcio 6, Parton 6, Hannah 7 — Biskie 6, Gojevic 6, Campbell 6 (Deankovic 66th) — Brogan 7, Cumming 7, Coach: Tony Vrzina.

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER: Oliver 7 — McKie 9, Macleod 8, Yankos 8, Angole 7 — Metaxas 8, Valentine 9, Petersen 8, Tasios 8 — Winn 9, Stevenson 7. Coach: Brian Garvey.

Top six for Boral Bricks Player of the Year Award: 6. Winn (H), 5. Valentine (H), 4. McKie (H), 3. Tasios (H), 2. Biskie (Cr), 1. Metaxas (H).

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

SYDNEY CITY 2 (Gomez 8th & 34th) APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (Caban 32nd) at Sydney Athletic Field. Crowd: 1269. Ratings by Tony Racic:

SYDNEY CITY: Pezzano 8 — Rodriguez 7, Robertson 8, Gomez 8, Keith Falconer 7 — Kay 7, Barnes 8 (Falconer 68th), Watson 7, Murray 6, Kosmina 7, Lea 6. Coach: Eddie Thomson.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Parks 7, Bozanic 7, Pullen 8, Van Egmond 6, Brown 7, Gray 8, Butler 6, De Ceglie 5 — Bradley 7, Caban 6, Morsello 5. Coach: Fil Bottalico.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. Gomez (SC), 5. Pullen (APIA), 4. Gray (APIA), 3. Barnes (SC), 2. Robertson (SC), 1. Pezzano (SC).

ST. GEORGE BUDAPEST 3 (Marton 4th & 46th, Koczka 19th) NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 815. Ratings by Lou Udovitch:

ST. GEORGE: Greedy 5, Sken 8, Ratcliffe (Batten 5), 15th, M. O'Shea 7, Ricoy 6 — Barton 7, Stone 7, Petkovski 7, Slater 7, Koczka 7, Marton 8. Coach: Frank Arok.

NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD: Gosling 7 — Maier 7, Boogaard 7, Owens 6, Thomson 7 — Brandt 5, Senkalski 6, McQuarrie 6 (sent off 62nd), Jones 5 — Todd 5, Allen 6 (Kerby 6, 46th). Coach: Willie Gallagher.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. Christopoulos (Can), 5. Sken (St. G), 4. Boogaard (N), 3. Stone (St. G), 2. Barton (St. G), 1. Maier (N).

WOLLONGONG 0 CANBERRA 1 (Gaffney own goal, 49th) at Dapto Showground. Crowd: Approximately 150. Ratings by Phillip McCall:

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff 6 — Green 7, Viletstra 7, Gaffney 7, Condran 6 — Kerr 6, Willis, Kotamandis 6 — Beggs 6, Corradini 6, Bundalo 7. Coach: Adrian Alston.

CANBERRA: Economopoulos 7 — Ontong 7, Christopoulos 8, Harkins 7, Jones — Sermanni 6, Mihailidis 6, Bryant 7, Perinovic 6, Gibson 6, Coe 6, Devo 6, Collins 6.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. Christopoulos (Can), 5. Gaffney (Woll), 4. Bundalo (Woll), 3. Green (Woll), 2. Jones (Can), 1. Perinovic (Can).

SYDNEY CROATIA 0 PENRITH CITY 1 (Jackson pen 80) at King Tomislav Park. Crowd: 2852. Ratings by John Glynn:

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse 5, Woods 7, Tomasac 7, Stierrey 5, Vidacic 8 (Basic 87), Jurin 9, Clinch 7, Godic 6, Borges 6 (Meades 77), Savor 7, Arnold 6. Coach: Harry Noon.

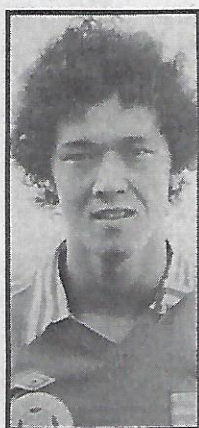
PENRITH CITY: Gibson 8 — Brogan 8, Cross 7, Daley 7, McIntosh 9 — Ainsworth 7, Hale 6, Nix 6 — Hunter 6 (Wotherspoon 71), Jackson 8, Cotton 6. Coach: Willie Wallace.

BEST SIX FOR BORAL BRICKS BEST PLAYER AWARD: 6. McIntosh 5, Jurin 4, Gibson 3, Jackson 2, Vidacic 1, Brogan.

MELITA EAGLES 0 BLACKTOWN CITY 2 (McLaughlin 34 Sandy 48) at Melita Stadium. Crowd 750. Ratings by George Streeter:

PARRAMATTA-MELITA: McPherson 8 — McAusland 8, Gregson 6, McGinn 7, McDonald 8 — Allan 8, Jamieson 7, Farrugia 7, Andriopoulos 8 — Athanatos 6, Davies 6 (Duffy 66

DAVIDSON FOR FOREST!



Alan Davidson

Alan Davidson of SM-Hellas has signed a three-year contract with Nottingham Forest, and will leave for England in November.

Forest's assistant coach Ron Fenton started negotiating with the Soccerroo star after being impressed by Davidson's performances in the international series last June.

Davidson will replace Forest's international right back Viv Anderson who transferred to Arsenal recently for \$600,000.

"Fenton told me that the club was looking for both a right back and a left back, so he was over the moon when I told him I had played regularly at left back for Hellas and Australia before switching to right back," Davidson said.

Davidson was offered a contract by Arsenal during the off-season but was unable to accept it because he couldn't get a British work permit.

There will be no problem this time, however, because Davidson soon will marry his fiancée who was born in Scotland and is a British subject.

Davidson withdrew from the national squad on Monday, and probably will be available to play for Australia only in World Cup matches while with Forest.

That means national coach Frank Arok has to find a replacement back. Those in the running include David Skeen (St George), Tony Curcio (Melbourne Croatia) and Peter Lewis (Melbourne Croatia).

At Forest, Davidson stands to earn at least \$1500 a week. The last Australian-born player to hit the big-time in England was former Soccer captain Joe Marston, who played for Preston North End from 1951 to 1954.

By LAURIE SCHWAB



Nottingham Forest in Adelaide last June, from left, standing: Hans van Bruekel, Ian Bowyer (captain), Chris Fairclough, Peter Davenport, Des Walker, Gary Mills, Steve Wigley, Steve Sutton, Jim McNally. Front: Viv Anderson, Bryan Gunn, Gary Birtles, Colin Walsh, Ken Swain, Steve Modge.

PUNCH-UPS AS LIONS DOWN JUVES

Brisbane 2 Juventus 1

Scorers: Anderson (1st and 13th), own goal Farrow (55th). Venue: Richlands.

Crowd: 1183.

Cautions: Niven, Hunter (BL) Miranda (U).

Referee: Alan Kibbler (8).

Brunswick Juventus officials and players have accused Lions of exaggerating claims of dressing room violence during and after this clash at Richlands.

Lions won the match 2-1 and the club is considering submitting a report over scuffles which broke out between players from both teams at the end of each half.

Lions officials, including club treasurer Ben Mollee and director Gary Wilkins, have alleged they had to hold back one Juventus player who was threatening to punch Lions midfielder Russell Stewart as he made his way to the dressing room at fulltime.

The clash came after an alleged halftime altercation during which the Lions officials claim a Juventus player attempted to kick winger Jim McDonagh, then threw a punch which missed the Scotsman but hit young fullback Steve Jackson on the back of the head.

The club has accused "The Juventus No. 10" for the halftime furore. The team sheet listed Brian Brown as No. 16. Juventus Soccerroo squad member Richard Miranda, who admitted to inviting Stewart to continue matters off the park as he left the field at fulltime, denied any other involvement in the alleged incidents.

"Who is Jim McDonagh?" he asked.

"I was in the dressing room first, so it wasn't me."

"The taunt to Russell Stewart was just part of the game. I'll do it the field if I want to prove anything," he said.

But after the match Juventus officials took a low-key approach to the whole business.

"There is nothing worth reporting. Players are players; there were a few verbal exchanges that's all," Team manager Joe Caruso said.

And coach John Margaritis described the events as "just over-aggression."

"All the strife would have settled between the players after the match but the trouble started when committee members got involved," Margaritis said, making reference to the way Lions officials handled the matter.

And referee Alan Kibbler indicated he and his linesmen were considering whether to submit a written report on the incidents.

"We were in the shed but were aware something was going on outside the door. But at this stage it would be inappropriate to say just what we saw and what we didn't," Kibbler said.



Ricky Rosso

Man of the Match:
RUSSELL STEWART
(Brisbane Lions)

Ironically it was Kibbler who was the centre of the controversy during the international series at Lang Park when Richard Miranda was viciously tackled by Iralakis to find George Orfanidis.

Kibbler sent Orfanidis off the field amid confusion, Margaritis took control of matters and helped Kibbler by arranging a compromise with the Greeks.

But he had little sympathy for the Brisbane referee this time.

"As long as referees here in Brisbane remain as they are and don't improve, this place will only be good for fishing, its sunshine and drinking," Margaritis said.

Lions coach Gordon Arrowsmith was in the dressing room and missed much of the alleged incidents but said: "All I saw was a black and white shirt throw a punch at Steve Jackson."

Stewart, who was the centre of the fulltime furore, was also mystified by the motive and suggested he had been mistaken for his brother John.

"I don't even know Richard Miranda. I was marking and in the player during the game and although we gave each other a fair bit of stick we shook hands at the end of the game," Stewart said.

As far as the match went, it was as heated on the field as off.

Once, during the second half, an all-in brawl loomed as a possibility as players crowded around Lions keeper Rob Farrow at the ground and several began pushing and swinging punches.

And as Juventus surged back in the second half, Lions relied on some tough defence to keep them out.

Lions had been in the box seat after scoring only 31 seconds into the match.

Russell Stewart, who after an indifferent season turned in a skilful if not smart display initiated the move. He slipped a nice ball to Ray Junna whose powerful shot took a deflection and shook the crossbar. The ball rebounded for tiny winger Clark Anderson to nod into an open goal.

Anderson netted his team's second when he capitalised on some loose defence to win back the ball from Paul Drinockzy and lob a shot over the

oncoming George Martin, who had been expecting a backpass from his defender.

With two goals under their belt, Lions looked a confident outfit and could have put away another two before the break.

But some good saves by Martin and some unlucky finishing by Lions saw the scoreboard remain unchanged.

The closest Juventus came to scoring was a shot from Rob Cullen which nearly slipped past Farrow but his outstretch legs turned the attempt wide.

Margaritis substituted Gary Ward for the lethargic Joe Sweeney at the break and it brought near instant success.

Ward pressured Farrow while he took a high Cullen cross and the young Lions keeper lost concentration and spilled the ball into his net.

That gave Juventus incentive to hunt for the equaliser and only determined tackling, sometimes a little too determined, kept Lions ahead. The Stewart brothers, Steve Jackson, Alan Hunter and Alan Niven, were particularly effective in stopping the probing runs of Kevin Lloyd, Andrew Zinni, John Dowle and Cullen.

Margaritis claimed his team should have had two penalties. Zinni was tackled heavily midway through the half as he attempted to beat three Lions defenders. But his swan-like fall was enough to prompt Kibbler to wave play on.

Juventus also thought a penalty was in order after the goalmouth altercation when they claimed Brian Brown was struck.

Blacktown adds to Eagles' woes

Mel. Eagles 0 Blacktown 2

Scorers: McLaughlin 34th, Sandy 40th.

Venue: Melita Stadium

Referee: Terry Seacey 8

Blacktown City's hopes of escaping relegation received a strong boost when it comfortably defeated Parramatta-Melita 2-0.

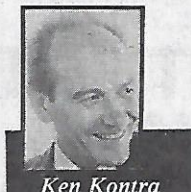
It was a disappointing result for Melita. After such an impressive start to the season it has won only one and drawn three of the past 11 games. On the other hand Blacktown City, inspired by a brilliant attacking performance from Soccerroo Phil O'Connor, dominated proceedings for most of the game.

Blacktown coach Casey De Bruin, although delighted at winning, is apprehensive about the future.

"It was a great performance from the team," he said.

"We can't go overboard. One loss could put us back in trouble but one win could push us into the top five."

Blacktown opened the scoring in the 34th minute when a



Ken Kontra

Makedonia 2 AC-Juventus 0

Scorers: Lane 21st, Lucchesi 50th

Venue: Connor Reserve

Crowd: 1500

Cautions: Villani

Referee: Jim Fearn 8

With Zarko Odzakovic still injured, and Gary Cole relegated to the youth team, Zoran Ilioski, a 60th minute substitute last week, was in the starting line-up and grabbed his chance with both hands.

He set up Makedonia's second goal, and was its most constructive midfielder.

Generally this was a fine performance by the home team. It mastered the windy conditions much better than Adelaide Juventus, and apart from some early pressure, the visitors were unable to seriously threaten the solid Makedonia defence.

Robbie Dunn and Ian Dobson formed an almost impenetrable defensive wall in front of Richard Wilson, and George McMillan, in addition to his defensive duties, embarked on forays into the opponents territory at every opportunity.

What an asset McMillan is to his team! You can play him virtually anywhere on the park and George will give you 100% effort and a good game, a real "value for money" performer!

For Juventus, apart from Sergio Melita in midfield and sweeper Bugsy Nyskohus, most of its players had an off day, and as a consequence, it never looked like taking control of this game.

Although Melita tested Wilson with two powerful shots in the opening few minutes, despite playing against a strong wind, Makedonia soon gained the upper hand.

Man of the Match:
PHIL O'CONNOR
(Blacktown)

Cross from O'Connor was confidently headed into goal by young striker Michael McLaughlin.

Three minutes after the interval midfielder Adam Sandy was rewarded for his efforts, scoring Blacktown's second goal with a low angled shot which deceived Melita goalkeeper Alex McPherson.

Blacktown continued to push forward and created numerous goal-scoring chances.

Blacktown striker John Larkin almost pushed the score to 3-0 but his powerful 25 metre drive hit the Melita woodwork and was cleared from danger.

In the dying seconds Melita had an opportunity to salvage some lost pride but a penalty attempt from mid fielder Ray Farrugia flew over the Blacktown crossbar.

Ilioski returns, Cole scores in youth side

In the 21st minute McMillan released Graham Heys on the right and his near-post cross was touched past goalkeeper Willie McNally by Sean Lane to put the home side into the lead.

Just before half time, Lane had a chance to add to his tally, but his sharp header from George Campbell's cross flashed past the post.

In the 50th minute Claude Lucchesi put the issue beyond doubt. Ilioski made a great run into the Juventus penalty area, shaking off several tackles, pulled the ball back for Lucchesi, and his first-time shot gave McNally no chance.

Only the woodwork saved the visitors from further embarrassment when in the 71st minute Dunn's powerful free kick from 20 metres hit the crossbar and a few minutes

later Lucchesi headed Campbell's cross against the upright.

With 10 minutes of play remaining Dunn had a chance to get his name on the score sheet. Substitute Ljube Petrovski crossed from the right and keeper McNally did well to save Dunn's volley at the far post.

Just on full time, Steve Maxwell exploited a rare opening in the Makedonia defence, but took too long contemplating his good fortune, allowing Wilson to narrow the angle and block his shot.

FOOTNOTE: Frank McAleer played Gary Cole in the youth team to give the big striker a chance to gain confidence. Gary set up two goals and scored two himself, so maybe the plan did have its desired effect!

Man of the Match:
GEORGE McMILLAN
(Makedonia)



George McMillan

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WOMENS - The New Caledonia South Pacific Cup now in its 3rd year has been widened to take place in Fiji in 1985 then back to New Caledonia in 1986. The event now called "THE SOUTH PACIFIC WOMENS SOCCER CHALLENGE" takes place in Fiji in October. Club, Association or Invitational teams can enter and in 1985 the event is expected to feature teams from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia and possibly America. Held during the same week as the mens event it will both be a serious tournament as well as an end of season holiday and as such is open to all standards of teams. A comprehensive package with a number of meals is now available.

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Christopoulos back but no-one sees him

Wollongong 0 Canberra 1

Scorer: Gaffney, OG.
Venue: Dapto Showground.
Crowd: Approximately 150.
Referee: Davies 3.

George Christopoulos returned to the Canberra team after his stint with AEK Athens, but Wollongong's crowd for this clash reached an all-time low.

Fewer than 100 people bothered to watch Wollongong take on its companions in distress on a wet Saturday night.

Admittedly, Canberra is not exactly a crowd-pulling side in Wollongong and the Wolves are not having a good season at all.

But the way crowds have decreased since 1982 must be of grave concern to the club.

Director Len Chaffer did not hide his disappointment at the bare terraces, dotted by a handful of fans and a few players from other clubs who thought watching the league's two bottom clubs play in Dapto would be an enjoyable night out.

"Our gate takings were less than \$300," Chaffer said. "It is getting serious — We hardly had enough money to pay the referees."

"All I can say is that all Sydney clubs seem to be registering a slump in gates — if that is any consolation — Referee Davies delayed the start for almost 30 minutes after a heavy downpour had reduced the pit into a quagmire."

After making an inspection, Davies decided the match should go on.

Canberra coach Doug Collins is understood to have been against playing but the way things turned out he must have gone home a happy man.



George Christopoulos



Philip Micallef

Man of the Match:
GEORGE CHRISTOPOULOS (Canberra)

First because his side had collected two away points and secondly because the Arrows did not deserve to win.

Wollongong played the better football for a good part of the match and lost only through a tragic mistake by veteran Larry Gaffney, who was its best player.

Asked to play sweeper only minutes before kick-off because of the unavailability of Hristovski, Gaffney surprisingly headed an innocuous cross four minutes into the second half on his own net.

Canberra started well but after an hour Wollongong began to find its feet in the treacherous conditions.

Kotamanidis twice ghosted into ideal scoring positions but he twice failed to control the ball only metres in front of goal.

The second half was virtually all Wollongong's but the nearest it came to scoring was in the last minutes when a full-blooded drive from Willis was saved by the diving Econopolous, yet another promising goalkeeper to emerge from the ACT.

Where does Canberra get its goalkeepers? Franken, Hummel and now Econopolous.

Watch out Heidelberg, here comes Hellas!

J.U.S.T. 0 SM-Hellas 3

Scorers: Brown 14th, Crino 30th, 76th.
Venue: Schindler Reserve.
Crowd: about 3,500.
Referee: Chris Bambridge 7.

A world-class goal and sparkling displays from Charlie Egan and Steve Blair highlighted South Melbourne's classy 3-0 win over bitterly disappointing Footscray J.U.S.T.

This Hellas display certainly was the stuff championships are made of. J.U.S.T. was made to look second rate against a Hellas outfit which not only had most of the ball but seemed to have a monopoly on knowing what to do when in possession.

The best-worked goal I've seen all season came in the



Craig Mackenzie

30th minute. It was Hellas's second.

Blair won the ball inside his defensive half, shrugged off Vlatko Belle's challenge and stormed forward. Blair pushed the ball down the right wing to Doug Brown who controlled quickly and spotted Egan making a diagonal run across the J.U.S.T. area. Brown played the ball into Egan, whose superb dummy set up unmarked Crino at the far post and although Crino didn't strike his shot cleanly he did

Man of the Match:
CHARLIE EGAN (SM-Hellas)

enough to send the ball past Dennis Boland from point-blank range and into goal.

Hellas's opening goal was charged with controversy. In the 14th minute Brown rifled in a stunning 25 metre volley. The ball struck the underside of the bar, bounced down and back into play for the incoming Egan who headed over. Referee Chris Bambridge, heeding the signal from his linesman, awarded a goal, ruling that the ball crossed the line from Brown's volley.

Four minutes later a delightful Crino chip struck

the top of the bar and bounced over. Hellas was well in command now and its scintillating interpassing move for the second goal capped its dominance.

It was J.U.S.T.'s turn, after half time, to play with a strong wind at its back but time and again, bereft of ideas going forward, J.U.S.T. players pumped high balls into the Hellas area. And what a waste of time and effort this archaic tactic was.

What little eluded Blair's aerial supremacy was snapped up competently by Peter Lau-metts. It was Hellas which was playing all the football and its third goal came as no surprise.

What was surprising was the 73rd minute replacement of Brian O'Donnell by Jamie Paton. Sure, Paton's goal sense was sorely needed, but in taking off O'Donnell, J.U.S.T. coach Cedo Cirkovic had removed his hardest working midfielder.

Three minutes later a dreadful blunder by the worst player afield, J.U.S.T. striker Dragan Lacmanovic, led to Hellas's third goal.

Lacmanovic was so badly out of form that when he took a short throw-in in the second half he completely surprised

Alan Davidson by throwing the ball onto Davidson's chest.

Perhaps tiring of rarely sighting the ball up front, Lacmanovic decided to come back and help his beleaguered defence in the 76th minute.

Gary McDowell passed the ball to Lacmanovic who spun around and passed to Brown!

The J.U.S.T. defence was well out of position. Brown played the ball short to Egan whose hard, low shot was spilled by the diving Boland and Crino, following in, tapped the ball into the unguarded goal.

That was the end of the scoring but Hellas easily could have had six or seven goals here.



Oscar Crino

KALANTZIS LEADS THE CHARGE

Syd. Olympic 4 Marconi 2

Scorers: Kalantzis 32, 47 (O) Koussas 57 (O) Mariani 64 (M) Kotholos pen 74 (O) Lowe 87 (M)

Venue: Pratten Park
Crowd: 2954
Referee: Richard Lorenc 8
Cautions: Mason (M) Carter (M) Patikas (O)

Two teams that met only a week earlier and figured in a close game at the Marconi Stadium, with only a penalty separating them, came out and turned on a quite different game at Pratten Park on Sunday.

Sydney Olympic demonstrated that it is the team of the moment, giving Marconi little chance to shine and in the process providing a feast of good soccer for the fans.

Marconi welcomed back Tony Henderson and played

him in midfield during the first half.

The change to defence after the break did little to alter Olympic's dominance and in fact it stormed home from a one-goal half time lead.

Bruce James was the main reason that Marconi did not fall behind by more than that single goal. He managed to parry a Kotholos free kick, well struck in the 3rd minute, after a second earlier holding a hot cross from Koussas who had cut in from the right and threatened danger.

James came off his line in the eighth minute in a race for the ball with Koussas who found himself with only the 'keeper to beat after receiving a longball forward by his defence. Koussas got in his lob which beat James, but the talented goalkeeper did enough to cause the shot to go over the bar.

It seemed at this stage as though Olympic was using James as target practice, so often did he get a touch, but he failed to cope with Chris Kalantzis in the 31st minute when the man of the match rose high above the pack and headed down into the far corner a Kotholos corner.

Moments later Koussas was just wide with a header after receiving a long ball from Soper who rarely reached the same level of involvement as his team-mates.

As the first half drew to an exciting close, Peter Raskopoulos put over a fine cross from the right which could have found Patikas to make contact with, before Patikas aimed his shot at the top corner and brought James into action once more.

Olympic came out for the second half, holding the upper hand and it was not long before they went further in front.

Peter Kotholos put through a lovely ball for Kalantzis and the youngest member of the team coolly planted the ball beyond the overworked James.

This after only two minutes of play in the second session and within another ten, Olympic was three up. Tony Dakos sent over a cross which Kalantzis nodded down and Mark Koussas drove the ball home with a header.

That was the end of the controversy when he was brought down as he made his way into the penalty area. It looked a certain penalty, but linesman Tony indicated to referee Lorenc that the offence had occurred on the edge of the box.

The free kick was blasted by Kotholos over the crossbar.

Nick Theodorakopoulos came on for Soper, who never really looked the part, and things continued to go Olympic's way. Bertie Mariani took a leaf out of Kalantzis's book when he jumped high to head in a McCulloch corner from the right in the 64th minute.

This goal did not have much effect on Olympic which continued to control proceedings.

Ten minutes later Kalantzis put Koussas through, and Koussas was felled by Calderan as he advanced well within the box. This time the penalty was given and Kotholos made no mistake.

James prevented Patikas from making it five with a reflex save following good work by Raskopoulos. Then to show that there were still two men playing, Marconi pulled another one back.

Henderson sent a long ball



Paul Goodwin

Man of the match:
CHRIS KALANTZIS (Syd. Olympic)

able to lob the ball past Gary Meier with just two minutes left.

It was hard to say how good Olympic was on the day. Certainly it played skilful soccer and kept Marconi guessing throughout, but perhaps Marconi just had an off day. Its midfield was far from effective and the chances for front runners Sharne and Brown to shine never really presented themselves.



West Adelaide Hellas defender Neil McGachey (right) challenges George Cross striker Ion Pit. In the background is Hellas forward Steve Papadopoulos. Picture by FRANK HOBBS.

Wests win basement battle

By ROBERT LUSETICH

WA-Hellas 2 Geo. Cross 0

Scorers: Papadopoulos, Panagis.
Venue: Hindmarsh stadium.
Crowd: 900.

The bitter dog fight to escape relegation took a bizarre turn when, in an amazing reversal of form, West Adelaide Hellas defeated George Cross at the Hindmarsh Stadium.

Just seven days earlier George Cross, bottom of the division, closed the gap on West Adelaide with a 2-0 victory in Melbourne.

But with only its second win in 13 games, the Adelaide team has edged four points clear of Cross, which could be enough to keep it from being discarded from next year's competition.

Winger Steve Papadopoulos put the home side ahead with a powerful header after three minutes, connecting with a delicate chip from midfielder John Panagis.

George Cross star Mick McGorian, who missed the previous week's match because of injury, had no better

luck when he lasted only seven minutes.

The striker smacked a header into the bar, but fell awkwardly and damaged his shoulder.

Coach Billy Wilkinson, who replaced McGorian with Ion Pitt, said McGorian was taken to an Adelaide hospital and would probably be out for a while.

West sealed the game in the 60th minute when Panagis slotted the ball home from 10 metres.

The goal was handed to West after Bobby Toal, unaware that Malavazos was lurking between him and Costello, passed back to the West striker who centred the ball for Panagis to score.

West coach Sam Salabasidis, although pleased to have inched further away from the bottom, now faces the trauma of having dominating middle man Manou off the field for the next two games because of a yellow card he received.

Salabasidis must study the player lists long and hard to come up with a squad of players capable of succeeding against the best the nation has to offer in coming weeks.

"I've only got eleven players," he lamented.

Man of the Match:
BRENTON HIERN (WA-Hellas)

Manou must now join injured trio John Papazoglou, Steve Atsalas and George Konstantopoulos in the grandstand.

Salabasidis opposite number, Wilkinson, drew on a cigarette long and hard and shook his head throughout his post-match summary.

"The way we let them get their goals was a comedy," he said.

He gave credit to his midfielders and to a lesser extent his defenders, before slamming the lack of bite Cross had up front.

"I felt sorry for the midfielders. I think they're the best in the League."

Hiern, best on the ground, stopped every attack that was launched down his flank, and frustrated Latif so much that the Cross forward roamed far and wide for kicks, and in desperation to home in on the goals, was caught off-side seven times in the second half.

Ratcliffe injury mars victory

St. George: 3 Newcastle 0

Scorers: 1-0 Marton 4th, 2-0 Koczka 19th, 3-0 Marton 46th.
Venue: St. George Stadium
Crowd: 815.
Sent off: John McQuarrie (N) 62.
Referee: G. Power 9.

St George coach Frank Arkov was nervous in a pre-match interview when he spoke openly of his team's disadvantage in playing against a side that cannot be relegated.

"It's not fair to clubs or players when Newcastle can't lose anything and we stand to lose everything," he said.

Despite Newcastle's good form of late, Arkov saw his team's strengths in the midfield and on the flanks.

Willie Gallagher was quietly



Lou Udovitch

confident that Joe Serkalski would dominate the midfield and that Ralph Maier in defence and Clint Gosling in goal would continue their good form.

St George attacked from the opening whistle and Andrew Koczka had the opportunity to open the account for St George after a free kick by Peter Petkovski.

In the 4th minute a free kick by David Ratcliffe found Mark Barton whose shot was parried by Clint Gosling in the New-

Man of the Match:
DEZ MARTON (St. George)

castle goalmouth. Dez Marton pounced on the ball and scored from close range.

Four minutes later Newcastle broke away with Neil Owens beating David Ratcliffe and with everyone expecting a cross, he shot and beat Terry Greedy but was denied by the cross-bar.

A David Ratcliffe header in the 18th minute led to an ensuing scuffle and a collision with goalkeeper Clint Gosling, after which Andrew Koczka scored an easy goal.

Ratcliffe injured his knee and was replaced by David Barton.

The second half opened with some Dez Marton magic. A right-foot shot from the edge of the penalty area gave Clint Gosling no chance, making it 3-0.

John McQuarrie was sent from the field in the 62nd minute by referee Gary Power following an incident where a St George player was kicked.

Excellent chances were missed by Peter Petkovski (65th min) and Mark Barton (70th min) both with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Despite their win, St George are still fighting relegation.

Overseas

POLAND
First Division results: Motor Lodzin 0 Baltyk Gdynia 0, Radomsk Radom 1 Lech Poznan 1, GKS Katowice 1 KLS Lodz 0, Lechia Gdansk 0 Pogon Szczecin 1, Wisla Krakow 0 Ruch Chorzow 1, Legia Warszawa 2 Slask Wroclaw 0, Gornik Zabrze 1 Gornik Wladyzyslaw 0, Widzew Lodz 2 Zagłębie Sosnowiec 1.

Leading Standings
Pogon Szczecin 3 2 0 2 9
Widzew Lodz 3 2 0 6 8
Gornik Zabrze 3 2 0 4 8
Legia Warszawa 3 1 1 9 4

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YOUTH POWER!

Tasios, Metaxas boost Heidelberg



Laurie Schwab

Melb Croatia 0 Heidelberg 2

Scorer: Winn 20th and 64th.
Venue: Olympic Park.
Crowd: about 5000.
Cautions: Campbell (Cr), Yankos (Cr), Adams (Cr).
Referee: Stewart Mellings 8.

Heidelberg-Alexander ended Melbourne Croatia's 17-match unbeaten run by winning this top-of-the-table clash 2-0 at Olympic Park.

The victory leaves Heidelberg one point clear at the top of the National Conference ladder, three points ahead of Croatia.

Heidelberg, unbeaten in nine straight games, took a gamble in fielding two 17-year-old midfielders, Steve Tasios and John Metaxas, replacing captain Theo Selemidis and high-scoring striker Scott Patterson.

But both Metaxas and Tasios played excellent football, supporting central midfielder Mike Valentine, one of the stars of the game.

Metaxas and Tasios — both members of the Victorian team that won the national youth championship this year — played wide on the flanks, and wore out their opponents with sheer speed and energy.

Coach Brian Garvey's switch to a four-man midfield has given strikers Steve Winn and Stuart Stevenson a lot more room up front, and Winn in particular certainly made the most of it, although he was aided by Croatia's slack marking.

Croatia's best player was Josip Biskic who showed all his brilliant ball skills in the first half, but was subdued a little by Charlie Yankos later.

Early this season Heidelberg beat Croatia 5-2, with striker Steve Winn notching four.

This time he scored twice — in the 20th and 64th minutes — and narrowly missed a third when the ball hit the post.

Winn, who joined Heidelberg from Marconi early this year, is now Heidelberg's top scorer with 11 goals for the season.

Croatia's performance was affected by its tough encounter in the National Cup semi-final last Wednesday night when it went down to Footscray J.U.S.T.

Yankos Banovic, who joined Croatia about six weeks ago from English club Derby County, showed class in racing out of his penalty area in the first few minutes to head the ball away from Winn.

But he was powerless to stop the first goal, headed in off the goal post by the busy striker.

Winn was fouled by the post in the 23rd minute and Banovic later denied Winn a second first half goal by getting one hand to the forward's shot.

Croatia's right winger and man of the match Josip Biskic

Man of the Match:
STEVE WINN
(Heidelberg)

hit the bar with a header at the other end, leaving the half time score at 1-1.

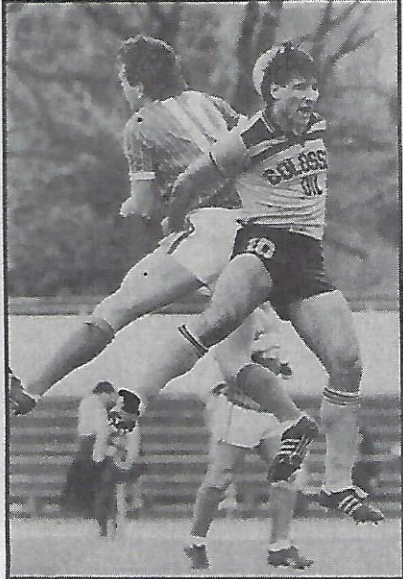
Tasios wriggled past Soccerro fullback Peter Lewis in the 64th minute before playing the ball square for Winn to notch Heidelberg's second goal.

Croatia coach Tony Vrzina reacted by replacing Lewis and midfielder Jim Campbell with Drago Deankovic and Keith Adams.

Croatia tried hard in the last 10 minutes to get back into the match but Brogan twice headed over the bar and had a powerful drive saved by goalkeeper Jeff Oliver.



Steve Winn (left) raises two fingers to mark his second goal for Heidelberg against Croatia. Stuart Stevenson and John Metaxas (No. 16) are congratulating Winn, while goalkeeper Yanka Banovic is about to retrieve the ball. Pictures by LES SHORROCK.



Heidelberg's Charlie Yankos (right) challenges Croatia striker David Brogan in an aerial duel.

Penrith — with a penalty

Syd-Croatia 0 Penrith 1

Scorer: Jackson pen., 80th.
Venue: King Tomislav Park.
Referee: Jim Reeves 8.

Penrith lifted itself out of the bottom half of the Australian Conference table and into fifth position with this 1-0 win over Sydney-Croatia.

Penrith's victory came courtesy of an 86th minute penalty.

Although the Croatia players claimed Penrith forward Roy Cotton was upended by midfielder Wally Savor outside the penalty box, referee Jim Reeves was right on the spot to make his decision.

Winger Brian Jackson sent Croatia goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse the wrong way to score the winner after a scoreless draw seemed the inevitable outcome.

Man of the Match:
DAVE MCINTOSH
(Penrith)

Croatia had gone unbeaten for the past six matches — the games in which former Yugoslav international midfielder Vedran Rozic had appeared.

This time Croatia had to play without his services following withdrawal of his clearance by the Yugoslav Football Federation. (see page one).

Fellow Yugoslav Zeljko Jurin had a great game but his regular scoring attempts were often foiled by the attention of big Penrith defender Dave McIntosh.

Both teams squandered many chances with wild shooting and the excellent displays from both goalkeepers Woodhouse and Penrith's Mike Gibson.

Croatia was on top in the first half as strikers Graham Arnold and Jurin going dangerously close.

Green Gully 2 Briss. City 0

Scorer: Lewis 12th, 86th.
Venue: Green Gully Reserve.
Referee: Sam Zoumas 9.
Cautions: Fabrizio (BC), Lidell (BC).

The fear of relegation has abated at Green Gully and the club already has drawn up a blueprint for next season, including recruiting plans and further improvements to Green Gully Reserve.

Gully will next year concentrate on recruiting a number of promising youngsters in the local areas of St Albans, Keilor and Sunshine who have made their name in the Victorian competitions this year.

Coach Bobby McLachlan already has had a lengthy meeting with club supremos Guy Spiteri, Arnold Langer and Paul Azopardi about the players he would like to get and although no names are being mentioned at this stage, one assumes that Victorian representative Victor Christodoulou of Keilor-Austria is on the list of likely targets.

The club also has yet to fill the visa vacancy it still has available and McLachlan has not yet given up hopes of signing a top "personality" player even though he has had no luck with phone calls to Tommy Docherty at Wolves and in Scotland where he attempted to sign either of two dissatisfied Dundee Utd players.

The win on Sunday lifted the club within striking distance of the top five but the coach is still not looking beyond avoiding the drop from the NSL in the club's first year in the competition.

"The job I was hired for this year was to avoid relegation," he said.

"When I came we were one point away from the bottom team — Now we've opened a seven-point gap."

Regarding the top five, if it happens, it will be a real bonus. I'd be more confident if we beat Makedonia this week."

The victory over Brisbane City proved to be a good way to celebrate a birthday as McLachlan "turned 31 again" on Monday.

Gully was the better side throughout the match and should have won by a bigger margin.



Peter Desira

And the club can draw further satisfaction from the performances of Les Carter, Willie Vassallo, David Smallman and Paul Wade.

Carter must rate as the steal of the year, having been signed for a paltry \$4500 fee from Adelaide Juventus to become one of the best players in the NSL with his usefull workrate and his nose for setting up goals as well as scoring a few himself.

Smallman had a good game and was unlucky not to score with two good efforts; Vassallo again belied his 34 years by covering every blade and contributing heavily in mid-field and Wade yet again proving his undoubted talent with another never-say-die effort.

This wasn't Wade's best game but, as club officials admitted afterwards, the youngster has set himself such a high standard that supporters are expecting him to excel every week.

By comparison, Brisbane City gave a disappointing performance and the only one who showed glimpses of class was youngster Lee Scriggins who is developing into a top prospect not scared to take men on and have the occasional shot at goal.

Tony Raciti

Gomez: one hell of a reserve!

SC-Hakoah 2 APIA 1

Venue: Sydney Athletic Field.
Crowd: 1269.
Referee: Doug Rennie 9.
Cautions: Brown, Pullon, Bozanic, Kay.

Hakoah maintained its relentless surge towards the Australian Conference title with a hard-fought but deserved 2-1 win over arch rival APIA Leichhardt.

The game was highlighted by two well-taken goals from Hakoah's replacement stopper Gerry Gomez, filling in for injured Soccerro Steve O'Connor.

What a pity it is to see a player of Gomez's ability not a regular in Hakoah's top eleven.

Gomez rarely plays a bad game. He fights vigorously for every ball, he is virtually unbeatable in the air and only on the odd occasion does the man he is assigned to mark achieve much in a game.

His two goals, both from corner kicks, were executed to perfection, but Kerry Caban must take the full blame as he should have been the player coming back to pick up Gomez.

In fact Gomez had a further four scoring opportunities, again from dead ball situations.

It was amazing that on not one single occasion did an

Man of the Match:
GERARDO GOMEZ
(SC-Hakoah)

APIA player pick up Gomez as he ventured into the penalty area.

Gomez opened the scoring as early as the eighth minute, but APIA grabbed a deserved equaliser 13 minutes before half-time through Caban.

Ian Gray did all the lead-work with a fine individual run before unleashing a strong goal-bound shot.

Tony Pezzano saved brilliantly, but failed to hold the ball, giving Caban the easiest of chances.

But APIA's happiness was short-lived as just two minutes later Gomez clinched the winner.

In the second half APIA tried hard to grab the equaliser, but Hakoah's back four stood firm.

The loss through injury and suspension of Soccerro Arno Bertogna and Peter Tredinick proved to be too big a hurdle for APIA to overcome. APIA lacks quality youth players in its squad, whereas Hakoah has an unlimited source of reserve talent.

That's the difference between winning and losing championships — and that's why Hakoah will again finish as deserved champions.

Man of the Match:
LES CARTER
(Green Gully)

only to miss the target narrowly.

Milovanovic atoned for his mistake by forcing Lou Denys into a fine save in the 36th minute, connecting with a Frank Pimblett cross from the right with a fierce header.

After the break, it was Carter's turn to come within a whisker of scoring, this time running onto Jimmy Williams' pass to blast the ball past Wishart only to see Steve Perry make a desperate dash to reach the ball centimetres before it crossed the goal line.

Smallman followed that up by heading a Willie Vassallo centre narrowly wide before the second goal finally came four minutes from the end.

Vassallo again made the opening down the right and Lewis nipped in to fire a shot into the far corner for his 11th goal of the season.

The Greens regain Bobby McGuinness from suspension for the clash against Makedonia this week but the winger is no certainty to get straight back in, considering there was little wrong with Sunday's overall team performance.

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Overseas

NORTHERN IRELAND
Gold Cup results: Crusaders 2 Linfield 0, Glenties 1 Anns 1, Larne 1 Cliftonville 0, Newry 3 Bangor 1, Portadown 1 Glenties 3.

EGYPT
Cairo: Egypt beat Zimbabwe 1-0 in an African Zone Group One World Cup qualifying tie here.
Scorer: Maymoub (9th min). Attendance: 58,000. The second leg will be played in Hareze on September 30.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
First Division: Inter Bratislava 2 Spartak Trnava 1, Lokomotiv Kocice 2 Slovia Prague 1, TJ Vokovice 2 Sparta Prague 3, Dukla Prague 2 Benik Ostrava 4, Dukla Banska Bystrica 2 Tatra Presov 0, ZVL Zilina 3 Slovan Bratislava 0, ZTS Petralka 1 Sigma Olomouc 1, Bohemians Prague 1 RH Chelvi 0.

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Stability at last, thanks to Jim!

"This will be the first season in the National League that we haven't sacked a coach or a gear steward or any club official. We couldn't keep sacking coaches because in the end the good coaches lose interest in joining your club."

That's how Olympic president Jim Petinellis sums up the stability his leadership has brought to the club, the kind of stability needed if Olympic is to become consistently successful.

"You know, Leo Anezakis (the South Melbourne Hellas president) and I are good friends and we talk about the importance of stability to our clubs. Not only must you stop getting rid of coaches every year, you also can't afford to keep changing committees," said Petinellis.

"Olympic bought players last year and decided to start properly building a good team. We're enjoying the benefits of that plan this season and we'll be even stronger next season. The players all know each other, we haven't changed the coach and we didn't need to spend big money on new players this year to do well."

"Okay, maybe you have to buy one good player every year or every two years but when you do, you must buy a really great player, not a reject, not someone about to qualify for the pension."

"After we won the National Cup last year, the spirit and atmosphere among the players was tremendous. We thought we could win the title this year. Okay, we're up there and we're doing well, but if we don't win the title this year we'll definitely be an even bigger threat next season. The players are playing well and our coach, Manfred Schaefer, is doing a terrific job."

Petinellis is on the NSL executive, which will vote next weekend on a format for the 1985 competition. He says that the league must re-introduce a truly national flavor to its competition, and clubs must change their attitudes and start to place more importance on providing entertaining matches.

"I've looked at all the suggested formats and from what I can see it's clear that we must simplify the competition. Intra and inter conference challenge rounds are far too confusing for the public. What we need is to go back to a straightforward home and away basis. We need the South Melbourne

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Jim Petinellis, 40, is the company director of Sapfo Investments. He was born on the island of Lesbos in Greece and came to Australia in 1960. He worked for restaurateur Charles Valentine, a founder of Pan Hellenic, Olympic's precursor, and immediately became a supporter of the club. Petinellis has been on Olympic's board of directors for the past three years and is in his second year as president.

and Heidelbergers playing up in Sydney and they need the Olympics playing in Melbourne. It's a must.

"And we can't have any breaks during the season. The break for the World Series tournament this year crippled most clubs financially. Take my club for example. Our last game at Pratten Park before the break drew 3,500 paying customers. Our first game at home after the break drew 1,000 paying customers. Every other club experienced a similar drop in attendances."

So what's the cure? Entertainment, according to Petinellis.

"Okay, so the national team gained experience during the World Series while the clubs suffered. Really, the biggest thing lacking in Australian soccer is entertainment

out on the field. We all chase the title but how many of us say to ourselves: Let's go out there and entertain the fans? Olympic is entertaining, so is APIA, and so are a couple of the Melbourne clubs, but that's not enough."

"We had a lot of new clubs coming into the National League this year and to be fair, I guess that I can understand why most of them simply wanted to concentrate all their efforts upon staying in the competition. But really, we can't tolerate that safety-first approach. Clubs must entertain. That's the only way we'll attract people to matches."

"You've got to look at spending money on good players and a good coach then giving them stability and time in which to build a good team."

Petinellis says that every club in next year's National League must know by late this year how much money it will cost to compete at the high standard so that budgets can be framed and sources of income established. Clubs must know exactly where they stand and if affiliation fees rise and travel costs rise, so be it. As long as clubs know and are prepared to commit themselves to that financial outlay, we'll start, at last, to develop a real national competition on a more secure basis.



Sydney Olympic, back row: Marshall Soper, Jim Patikas, Tony Dakos, Alex Lambropoulos, Peter Terry. Row: Terry Patalis, Chris Kalantzis, Martyn Rogers, Peter Raskopoulos, Gary Phillips, Gary Meier. Missing: Mike Coady. Picture by CARLOS PICASSO.

It's a feminine touch in a man's world

It's Barbara Aston's love of soccer, especially the way it's played by Sydney Olympic, which led her to taking on the man-zie task of being Olympic's soccer secretary.

She'd probably cringe at that word "man-zie".

"Soccer is a male dominated sport and until that situation changes, forget about women holding crucial decision-making positions," said Aston.

It wasn't just soccer, Olympic-style, which lured her to the club, however. It also was the excitement, the constant buzz which surrounds everything the club does, both on and off the field.

"Initially, it was the exciting way Olympic plays which attracted me to the club. But it was more than that. It also was the highs and lows, the controversy, the action around the place, the supporters. It's a dynamic club."

Aston established a women's team at Sydney City Hakoah and did the same for Olympic last year. She also plays. And she was part of the Olympic women's team which won the 1983 Grand Final of the eastern suburbs competition.

Aston also played in this year's Grand Final winning side. But there was a difference. She played for Pagewood-Botany against Olympic in that final and scored two goals in Pagewood-Botany's 4-2 victory.

"I've always worked in an administrative capacity so becoming soccer secretary of Olympic last December wasn't a major change in my career. I'd worked as a medical secretary and also worked at Sports House in Sydney for the NSW Waterski Association."

She also worked with the NSW Women's Soccer Association as publicity officer but left last year because she felt "the association wasn't forward thinking enough."

So let's think ahead. What does she predict for Olympic?

"I feel the fans are a lot more cautious than in the past. You can feel them almost holding their breath, waiting to see if we can stay near the top."

"The club's a lot more close-knit this year. We've got our act together and we're going along fine."

Does that suggest that Olympic will finish in either second or third spot in the Australian Conference and do well in the finals?

Sounds like it, doesn't it.

Grand Final, Ampol Cup

Sydney Olympic was formed as Pan Hellenic in 1958 by the late George Zantiotis, the first president of the club, later to become team manager.

He put a lot of time, money and effort into the early years of Pan Hellenic and in the 1960's the club won the Second Division championship and was promoted to First Division.

It was in 1968 that Olympic first came close to claiming a major honor. That year it reached the Grand Final, only to lose 4-2 to Sydney City Hakoah after extra time.

Gary Manuel, who was to join Pan Hellenic the following year, scored a hat-trick to take Prague to a 3-2 win over Pan Hellenic in the final of the 1973 Ampol Cup.

Pan Hellenic became Sydney Olympic late in 1976 and in 1977 the club became a founder member of the National League.

Olympic finished 12th in the 1977 NSL. 8th in 1978, 13th in 1979 and subsequently was relegated. But, with Jim Adam as coach, Olympic won the Grand Final and the Ampol Cup in 1980 and finished second in the NSW State League to Melita Eagles.

Olympic won back its NSL status for the 1981 season and consolidated its place by finishing 9th in the now 16-team league.

The club finished 8th in 1982, 7th in 1983 and won its first major NSL honor that year, by beating Heidelberg 2-0 on aggregate in the final of the National Cup.

A Terry Patalis goal in the first leg of the final, played at St George Stadium, enabled Olympic to take a 1-4 lead down to Melbourne for the second leg. Not that it mattered, for Olympic brushed aside any fears it may have had about playing in Melbourne and again won 1-0. Again, Patalis, that young star, was the scorer.

Olympic has had 10 coaches in the NSL. Bruce Stowell (1977), Kaz Kulaz (1977), J. (1978-79), John Xipolitis (1979), Tom (1981, 1983), Doug Collins (1981-82), Lj (1982) and Manfred Schaefer, who too Docherty last year.



Olympic's 1980 squad, which won the Ampol Cup. Back row: Bill Palmer, Graham Jennings, B. Hosselini, Jim Ziras, Ian Rowden, Gary Front. Front: Bill Palmer, Graham Jennings, B.

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THE SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Watch out for Schaefer's soldiers in the finals!

By
**CRAIG
MACKENZIE**

Sydney Olympic will stay in the top three of the Australian Conference this season; Sydney City Hakoah should win the championship; and there may not be 18 players in Australia of true international standard.

So says Manfred Schaefer, who made 73 appearances for the Socceroos from 1967 to 1974, 50 in full internationals, and took over from Tommy Docherty as coach of Olympic last year.

Schaefer is a hard man. Just ask his players. Or Olympic committeemen.

"I've got a very good relationship with our president, Jim Petinellis. Actually I've got a contract, drawn up by a solicitor, which has been sitting in my house all season. I've never signed it. I shook hands with Jim. That's



Sydney Olympic coach Manfred Schaefer (left) in action for Australia against Gerd Mueller of West Germany. In the background is Adrian Alston.

good enough for me," said Schaefer.

"As for the players, at last we've become more consistent. We simply had to.

"When I first took over I think some of the players were of the opinion that if they didn't play well under me and I didn't give them a game, they could just wait around and see what the next coach thought about them. I heard that after we lost a couple of games in a row that the club would start looking for new coach but that hasn't been the case. Anyway, I've only been called to two board meetings this year, and as far as I can see, the club wants to become more stable both on and off the field.

"I never ask anyone to like me. I don't need that. Sure, I like some of the players on a personal basis but if need be I'd drop them in a minute on a professional basis. They know that.

"But all credit to them for what they've done so far this year. They've worked hard.

"Look, there's not a great difference between us and APIA or Marconi. Honestly, I believe that for sure we'll finish at least in the first three. At present, Sydney City has got a big lead at the top and really, if they don't win the league then something's seriously wrong. But we've got the finals to look forward to."

Schaefer wanted to be appointed on a full time basis this year but Peti-

nellis said that the club couldn't afford such an appointment.

"Jim was very honest about it. He told me to my face that the club couldn't afford to pay me on a full time basis. I appreciated his honesty. I expected the club to agree however and when it didn't, it just made me even more determined to try and bring success again this year after winning the 1983 National Cup."

Schaefer refused to talk about each player in his first team squad. He'll leave such comments until the season is over. He did however, say that Mike Coady was one of the key players in the side.

"I make no bones about it. Mike is very, very important to us because he's the man who keeps everything together at the back. He directs our defence.

"Marshall Soper is worth a goal a game. Some people think that he's just a hard man, which is wrong. Marshall is a skilful player, a player who can make goals as well as score them."

And what of Mark Koussas, leading scorer in the 1981 World Youth Cup finals in Australia, who had dismal seasons in 1982 and 1983, amid speculation that he'd leave Olympic? Now, Koussas is an integral part of the Olympic machine.

"When I took over, all I knew about Mark Koussas is what I had read in the newspapers and seen on TV during the World Youth

Cup in '81. Believe me, the way he plays now is a real bonus for us. I didn't think that he could play like that. I'd tried him in midfield, on the wing and as a central striker and although he always did the job for me, he found it hard to command a regular spot.

"He sat on the bench when we played Melbourne Croatia up here earlier this year and I had a long chat with him. He told me that he could make a success of the central striker's position and since he played well there against Penrith, he's never looked back."

Being one of the most celebrated internationals in the history of Australian soccer, whenever he talks about the national team, Schaefer speaks straight from the heart.

"You can be an average player at club level, even above average, but when you play at national team level you must have something special. Anyway, that's how it should be. The way things have been for the past few years, very few players who have played for Australia have deserved the honor. We spend a lot more money on the national team than we did in the past but honestly speaking, although the preparation planned is a good one, I've got my doubts about us qualifying for the next World Cup finals.

"I believe we'll be lucky to find 18 players of true international standard and you need a squad that size and of that quality to make it to the finals.

"One guy I'd have in my national team is David Lowe of Marconi. That guy's excellent, and of course, he's a product of the youth team and the whole idea of the youth team is to groom future internationals."

Schaefer also is critical of analogies made between Australian internationals and overseas stars, especially when the Australian player is young.

"Joe Watson has been called the Platini of Australian soccer. That's wrong. It's very unfair to Joe, who is playing great but how can you compare him with Platini? Platini is Platini! He's beyond comparison.

"We've got this habit here, especially during Rudi Gutendorf's era, of

The squad

Manfred Schaefer's 19-man first team squad:

PETER WILSON (Goalkeeper)
GARY MEIER (Goalkeeper)
GRAHAM JENNINGS (Defender)
MARTYN ROGERS (Defender)
TONY DAKOS (Defender)
MIKE COADY (Defender)
ALEX LAMBROPOULOS (Defender)
GEORGE HAMOTIS (Defender)
ALBERT NOCERA (Defender)
GARY PHILIPS (Midfielder)
PETER RASKOPOULOS (Midfielder)
JIM PATIKAS (Midfielder)
PETER KATHOLOS (Midfielder)
BOBBY NAUMOV (Midfielder)
MARSHALL SOPER (Forward)
MARK KOUSSAS (Forward)
TERRY PATALIS (Forward)
NICK THEODORAKOPOULOS (Forward)
CHRIS KALANTZIS (Forward)

tagging our players with names of overseas stars. You shouldn't do that. If a kid's coming through the ranks and everyone starts saying that he's another Platini, the kid starts to believe his own publicity. That can kill a young player."

And, according to Schaefer, having a full time national coach is a must.

"When Franz Beckenbauer took over as coach of West Germany he spent two months just interviewing players for hours on end. We've got to have a full time national coach because it's a job which requires long hours and lots of hard work."

And what of that great 1974 team which took Australia into the World Cup finals in West Germany?

"Under any circumstances that team would have been hard to beat. It would be hard to beat today. Okay, there were some players in that squad which were there purely for political reasons and I don't want to go into that right now but we had 18 guys who were good enough to play for this country and they played their guts out every time they went onto the field."

The recent World Series tournament was hailed in most press quarters as an outstanding success for the Socceroos, especially for the "A" squad. Schaefer disagrees.

"Look, I know that our results were good but what counts is World Cup games, not tournaments like the World Series. I didn't rate that tourna-

ment at all. If we played Juventus 10 times in a proper competition, they'd beat us eight times. To me, the real test of progress in the national team comes when you're playing for something, like trying to qualify for the World Cup finals."

Schaefer applies a similar yardstick, competing successfully in games played in anger, to his job at Olympic.

"A premiership is the yardstick of success."

If Olympic then, doesn't win the 1984 championship and the club maintains its policy of stability, we can expect to see Schaefer and his players chase the 1985 title. For, by Schaefer's own criterion, if Olympic doesn't win the title this year, he won't have been truly successful.

And Manfred Schaefer isn't the kind of guy to take that lying down!

Top men in charge

Jim Petinellis heads Olympic's nine-man committee, made up of four executive members and five general committee members.

Secretary Michael Kontos is a pharmacist, vice-president Harry Zantoy is a businessman and is treasurer Michael Passalis.

The general committee members are: Jim Harris, Con Passalis, Gerry Mamolis, Arthur Theodoridis and Paul Mihail.

Winner in 1980

The club has had three presidents in the NSL. They are: Michael Kontos, John Constantine and Jim Petinellis. Constantine, president of the NSW federation, is an honorary life president of Olympic.

The club has three main patrons: Sir Arthur George, president of the ASF; Keith Booth, NSW state treasurer; and Lou Herman, mayor of Ashfield.



NSW Grand Final. Back row: Jim Adem (coach), Hossain, Ken Wilson, Andy Scott, Peter Wilson, Peter Hossain, y McPherson, Mike Cross, Derek Laing, Greg Ankudnoff.

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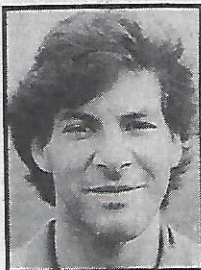
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Fawkner striker
Bruno Cozzella

NO SWEAT, IT'S FALCONS!

VSF

What's the betting that more than a few Fawkner officials and fans will be very interested onlookers when Morwell Falcons takes on Northcote at John Cain Reserve this Sunday?

Falkons' loss to Ringwood Wilhelmina last weekend probably has sparked some hope among Fawkner people that it is yet not lost in the race for the championship.

Think again, for despite last weekend's hiccup, Falkons will beat Ringwood and maintain their three point cushion in top spot.

Of course, Fawkner has to beat Broadmeadows at Laura Douglas Reserve on Saturday to keep alive its slim chance of catching Falkons and Ian Telfield and Bruno Cozzella should prove too accomplished for the Broadmeadows defence, which had a nightmare against St Albans Dinamo last weekend.

The Doveton V. Polonia

game at Waratah Reserve this Sunday will be a real dogfight. Box Hill should regain its winning way by beating Knox City at Wembley Park on Sunday. Leading State League marksman Steve Smith hasn't fared well against Polonia's defence last weekend but to increase his lead in our VSF Travel Club award for the leading scorer of 1984.

Frankston Pines can do better than Broadmeadows a favor by beating Dinamo at Monterey Boulevard on Saturday; Albion Rovers, always tough to topple at Selwyn Park, can pick up a point on Saturday against Western Suburbs; and the local derby between Croymond and Wilhelmina at Croymond Park looks a good draw bet to me, even though Wilhelmina goes into the match as favorite.

Broadmeadows v FAW-KNER at Laura Douglas Reserve, 3 pm.
Albion Rovers v Western Suburbs (draw) at Selwyn Park, 3 pm.

SUNDAY
Doveton v Polonia (draw) at Waratah Reserve, 3 pm.
BOX HILL v Knox City at Wembley Park, 3 pm.
Croymond v Ringwood Wilhelmina (draw) at Croymond Park, 3 pm.
Northcote v MORWELL FALCONS at John Cain Reserve, 3 pm.



Relegation blues for Broady?

By LES SHORROCK

St Albans 3 Broadmeadows 1

Scorers: Batiniovic 35th, Brkljacic 50th, Bruno 67th (St A); Watson 48th (B).
Venue: Churchill Reserve.

Broadmeadows slumped further into the relegation mire and St Albans grabbed two golden points as a result of this dreary encounter.

In a game that rarely rose above the mediocre, Broadmeadows looked capable of

holding St Albans to a draw until its busiest player, Stuart Blair, was sent off by referee Jim Brennan in the 53rd minute for alleged dissent.

Broady was 2-1 down then, but with two dithering defences on view, anything could have happened.

St Albans shook the spectators out of their stupor in the 37th minute when a horrible misunderstanding between Broady goalie Lino Grech and Peter Donaldson saw John Bruno pounce onto the bad

backpass and square for Ned Batiniovic to tap the ball into an empty net.

Four minutes after the restart, it was the Saints' turn to blunder, as Blair's corner fell at George Watson's feet almost on the goal-line and Watson equalised with ease.

The back-slapping had hardly died down, though, before St Albans was in front again. Branko Culina won a free-kick on the left, took it himself, and Zdenko Brkljacic, as the Broady defenders

watched flat-footed, headed powerfully past Grech.

After Blair's dismissal, Broady's chins were scraping the floor, and Bruno's goal from Batiniovic's cross in the 67th minute was merely icing on the cake for St Albans.

After the match, Broadmeadows coach Jim McIntyre was bitterly critical of his team's performance, and particularly harsh on the defence. "Where was the fire?" he demanded. "We got back in the game, then that bloke Brkljacic was allowed a free header. Even after Stuart Blair was sent off we had so much of the ball you'd have thought they were the ones with 10 men, not us, but we were so dodgy at the back I always felt we'd throw it away and in the end we did."

Broadmeadows indeed is in a parlous situation, facing three difficult games against Fawkner, Western Suburbs and Ringwood Wilhelmina, whilst fellow-struggler Doveton still has a match in hand.



George Watson

Only Rainey stands tall

By JOHN WALLACE

W. Suburbs 2 Croymond 0

Scorers: Lazopoulos 1st, 30th.
Venue: Ralph Reserve.

Western Suburbs grabbed two excellent points, thanks to its ability to take advantage of a strong wind, when it beat Croymond City 2-0.

In its present crisis, Croymond really needed a good victory to ease the pressure but never looked like getting it at Ralph Reserve, and the reason is quite simple — the plug has been pulled on Croymond's confidence. Its will-to-win also looked suspect.

And the task of restoring confidence will take time. It's going to be far from easy getting Croymond players to settle on the ball and try to do something with it, instead of giving it the hot potato treatment.

Indeed, on the evidence of this performance, this is the poorest Croymond team on which I've clapped eyes.

Mike Rainey is exempt from this criticism but his enthusiasm didn't rub off on the others here.

Bill Lazopoulos nipped home a beauty in exactly one minute 22 seconds, dispossessing Alan Kerr then tucking the ball past advancing Lou Kastner Suburbs, with the strong wind behind it, kept passes low and fast whereas Croymond just could not cope against the breeze.

At the half hour mark Dallas Dilberto's sweet cross was



Croymond defender Micky Rainey

glanced home by goal hungry Lazopoulos to make it 2-0. After the break, and now wind assisted, all Croymond's goalmouth shots went high and handsome or were expertly dealt with my goalie Rocky Tachris. Peter Killey, showing a bit of imagination, had his shots at goal scrambled clear and Alex Livingstone hit the bar from 25 metres, but Croymond made no real headway.

SELECTIONS

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE
Saturday: Thomaston v North Dandenong (draw); Kew v Werribee; DONCASTER ROVERS v Moorabbin; Altona Gate v Richmond (draw); Bell Park v SUNBURY.

SUNDAY
Saturday: MELBOURNE v Newmarket City; Altona City v SPRINGVALE CITY.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: Kallit v MOORABBIN; Heidelberg Boroondra v Prahran; Coburg v SOUTH HAWKESBURY; Eltham v Ringwood United; CAULFIELD CITY v Werribee City; Dandenong City v SANDRINGHAM; North Geelong v STH MELBOURNE; MORBIDLA.

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: BULLEEN v Carle; YALLOURN v Essendon City; Brighton v GEELONG; Kildare v KARNDILL; RUYAL RICHMOND v Moorabbin City; PRANRAN CITY v Moorabbin; HAWTHORN RANGERS v Port Melbourne.

DIVISION FOUR
Saturday: Kewdale v FERNETREE GULLY; HAWTHORN v Langwarrin; Greenborough v ROSAMUNA; CLIFTON HILL v Broadford; Border v SPRINGVALE UNITED; East Brunswick v Yarraville (draw); Holland Park v Laker United (draw).

PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE
Saturday: MALVERN CITY v West Brunswick; HAWKINSBURG v Central City; CLAYTON v Melton; CHELSEA v Eastland; CLARINDA v Mowah; BOROINIA v West Geelong.

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: GEELONG UNITED v Kyneton; FIVE CITY v PACIFIC VALE; Cranbourne v ALTONA UNITED; Berridge City v SOUTH DANDENONG; MORRISFORD v South Yarra; NUNAWADING UNITED v Utd of Melbourne.

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: NORTH SUNSHINE v Mitchem; Lyndale United v BRUNSWICK CITY; HAMPTON WANDERERS v Ringwood United; CLARINDA KODJONG v Diamond Valley; DINGLEY v DALLAS CITY v Port United.

DIVISION FOUR
Saturday: EPPING THISTLE v St Kilda; Carrum v RICHMOND UNITED; WESTALL v Melbourne; Bulleen v United v PARKMORE; Ament Vale City v SOUTH PARKMORE.

AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
Sunday: CHICKADEE v ENGELAVOUR HILLS; BUNDOORA v Lathrobe City; BALWYN CITY v Norwood; Selwyn v MEADOW PARK; Ament St Marks v MELBOURNE UNITED v Laker City; YARRA UNITED v Ringwood Rovers.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: Old Scotch College v SOUTH SPRINGVALE; HISSA UNITED v PING Lathrobe; Eagle United v RALLY; Concordia v VERMONT (Penny Hill); Boroondra; West Melbourne v WEST UNITED.

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: COLLINGWOOD v Digbya Road; Collingwood City v EAST RICHMOND; BUNTONS v Laker; MELBOURNE UNITED v Laker City; YARRA UNITED v Ringwood Rovers.

Stutchbury, Cumming taken to hospital

Knox City 1 F'ston Pines 3

Scorers: Gerrish 80th (K); Thomas penalty 1st, Beech 30th, Cullen 83rd (FP).
Venue: Egan Lee Reserve.

Pines won the match but came off worse in the injury department with goalkeeper Dave Stutchbury and forward John Cumming both having to go to hospital. Cumming was treated for a broken nose while Stutchbury had suspected rib damage.

However, Pines had a dream start when forward Darren Rust was felled inside the Knox area in the first minute and Ray Thomas converted from the penalty spot. Cumming broke his nose in a heading duel in the 5th minute and was replaced by Chris Wilkinson but Pines recovered from the setback and went further ahead in the 30th minute

when Steve Beech hammered the ball in from close range.

Stutchbury was replaced at half time by Chris Kovac and it took until the 80th minute for Knox to kick back. A far post ball picked out Jeff Gerrish who drew Kovac then slotted the ball in from an acute angle.

But three minutes later Wilkinson laid the ball back for John Cullen to knock in number three.

If Knox maintains its State League status this year it probably will rely heavily next season on bringing its crop of talented youngsters into the first team.

Knox boasts three Victorian under-16's — defender Adam Byrne, midfielder Dave Healey and forward Colin Hawthorne — while defender Phillip Strachan and forward Mark Fisher have had fine seasons in the reserves. And Knox should have young Luke Russell back in peak fitness after suffering a bad ankle injury earlier this season.



Dave Stutchbury

450 up for Nelson

Ringwood United Serbia's sweeper Alex Nelson has played 450 consecutive games without injury or suspension, in a career that has spanned well over a decade and involves playing for Heidelberg Alexander, Brunswick Juventus, Northcote and Serbia.

"Alex is an extremely valuable member of my squad," said Serbia coach Ken Kontra. "He can play in a variety of positions although, since taking over, I've used him as a sweeper alongside Peter Vaughan. They form one of the

best central defensive partnerships in the Metro leagues.

"Alex is a terrific player and a pleasure to work with at training. He's lost none of his pace and he can play for years to come if he wants to."



Alex Nelson

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Buffalo State League ladder

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MORWELL FALC	15	6	2	46	13	36
FAWKNER	14	5	4	56	31	33
POLONIA	13	7	3	54	33	33
BOX HILL	11	8	4	41	26	30
Northcote	11	2	10	49	38	24
West Suburbs	10	4	9	41	45	24
Frank. Pines	6	10	7	30	35	22
Ringwood W.	7	7	8	35	34	21
Albion Rovers	7	6	9	22	31	20
Knox City	6	5	12	28	51	17
Croymond	7	2	13	24	35	16
St Albans D.	4	7	12	29	47	15
Broadmeadows	5	4	14	24	46	14
Doveton	4	5	13	26	40	13

KNOX CITY 1 (Gerrish 80th) FRANKSTON PINES 3
(Thomas penalty 1st, Beech 30th, Cullen 83rd) at Egan Lee Reserve, Saturday.

KNOX CITY: Brian 6 — Stoffels 5, Bissinger 6, Murray 6, Dixon 6, Stach 6 (Brindle H.T. 6), Wild 6, Lesbirel 6, Smith 6 — House 6, Gerrish 6, Coach: Eric Lesbirel.
FRANKSTON PINES: Stutchbury 7 (inj), Kovac H.T. 5 — Thurlow 7, Cullen 7, Beech 8 — Luca 6, Cooke 6, Ross 6, Thomas 6 — Livingstone 6, Rust 7, Cumming (inj), Wilkinson 5th, 7). Coach: Danny McMinime.

Best three for Schipano Player of the year award: 3. Ross (Pines), 2. Beech (Pines), 1. Thurlow (Pines).

ST. ALBANS DINAMO 3 (Batiniovic 35th, Brkljacic 50th, Bruno 67th) BROADMEADOWS 1 (Watson 48th) at Churchill Reserve, Saturday.

ST. ALBANS: Debeljuh 4 — Kuzman 6, Bozic 5, Radman 5, Nobilo 5 — Brkljacic 6, Pavlovic 5, Batiniovic 6 — Bruno 5, Culina 4 (Rastocic 88th), Morovic 5. Coach: Joe Spoljar.
BROADMEADOWS: Grech 5 — Smart 4, Elia 3, Donaldson 3, De St 3 (Acosta 59th) — Watson 6, Daniels 5, Horfink 4 — Blair 5 (sent off 53rd), Campbell 5, Simic 5. Coach: Jim McIntyre.

Best three for Schipano Player of the year award: 3. Brkljacic (St A), 2. Batiniovic (St A), 1. Watson (B).

BOX HILL 0 POLONIA 1 (Przybyla 58th) at Wembley Park, Sunday.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 7 — I. Roodhouse 6, Brooks 7, Brownlie 6, A. Roodhouse 7 — Hughes 5, Hennessy 6 (Azzopardi 64th), Valentine 6 — Priestley 5 (Keenan 58th), Verechia 7, Smith 6. Coach: Bill Murray.

POLONIA: Fryzser 9 — Liparski 7, Mila 8, McCuskey 8, Smolarek 8 — Gibson 7, Tront 7, Petrov 8 — Mitten 7, Przybyla 8, Gilder 7. Coach: John Gardiner.

Best three for Schipano Player of the year award: 3. Fryzser (Pol), 2. McCuskey (Pol), 1. Petrov (Pol).

FAWKNER 4 (Cozzella 30th, 47th, Palinkas 43rd, Fattore 88th) ALBION ROVERS 2 (Robertson 60th, Reilly 70th) at Smith Reserve, Sunday.

FAWKNER: Terzini 7 — Giacomi 7, Boya 7, Macleod 7, Hobson 7 — Bannett 7, Angelo 7 — Palinkas 8, Tuffield 8, Cozzella 8 (Fattore 88th), Garvey 7 (Palmaricciotti 60th), Coach: Gus Macleod.
ALBION ROVERS: Bryden 6 — Gatt 7, D'Silva 7, Gilmore 6, Douglas 8 — Galea 5 (Bennett H.T. 6), McMorrow 6, Reilly 8, Alfonsio 7 — Bouzas 6, Robertson 7. Coach: Billy McIntyre.

Best three for Schipano Player of the year award: 3. Palinkas (Fawk), 2. Tuffield (Fawk), 1. Douglas (Albion).

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 2 (Warszowski 52nd, Stewart 72nd) MORWELL FALCONS 1 (Clarke 75th) at Jubilee Park, Sunday.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Lee 8 — Fryatt 8, Haupt 7, Murray 9, Verniers 7 — Whyte 7 (inj), Alarcon 84th), Storm 7, Burton 7, Shannon 7 — Warszawski 7, Stewart 7. Coach: Cor Teauw.

MORWELL FALCONS: Whiteside 7 — Clarke 8, Higham 5, Bruns 7, Train 7 — Bingham 6, Moore 6, MacLean 6, O'Callaghan 7 — Athersch 6, Skirton 5 (inj), T. van Baer 60th), Coach: Jimmy Dunne.

Best three for Schipano Player of the year award: 3. Murray (RW), 2. Clarke (Falc), 1. Fryatt (RW).

DOVETON 4 (Edmondson 25th, Nelson 41st, Watson 50th, Lennon 75th) NORTHCOTE 2 (Constantinou 15th, Edmondson o.g. 56th) at Waratah Reserve, Sunday.

DOVETON: Radov 7 — Dixey 7, Sutherland 7, Gadsby 7, Fitzpatrick 7 — J. McDonald 8, Buchanan 7, Edmondson 8 — Watson 9, Nelson 7, Lennon 7. Coach: Ian Williamson.

NORTHCOTE: Gianopoulos 7 — Patinolis 6, Katsakidis 6, Bozakis 6, Milos 6 — Wright 7, Quigley 7, Tor 8 — Dionisopoulos 6 (Milo 56th), Constantinou 7, Bekiaris 6 (Milevski 68th), Coach: Jimmy Pyrgiolos.

Best three for Schipano Player of the year award: 3. Watson (Dove), 2. J. McDonald (Dove), 1. Toro (North).

WESTERN SUBURBS 2 (Lazopoulos 1st, 30th) CROYDON 0 at Ralph Reserve, Sunday.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Tachris 7 — Matheou 7, Howe 6, Dimovski 7, Hamill 7 — Christodoulos 6 (Coullis 88th), Espinoza 7, Coyle 6, Dilberto 7 — Lazopoulos 8, Filippis 6. Coach: Jimmy Condilis.

CROYDON: Kastner 7 — Rainey 7, Kerr 5 (Allen 80th), Bates 6, Brown 6 — Tait 5 (Livingstone 89th), Brewerton 5, Singleton 6 — Loughnane 6, French 5, Killey 7. Coach: Colin Hasler.

Best three for Schipano Player of the year award: 3. Lazopoulos (WS), 2. Dilberto (WS), 1. Rainey (Croy).

SCHIPANO AWARD

Schipano Home Furnishers are the sponsors of our 1984 State League Player of the year award.

The winner receives \$1,000 worth of furniture of his choice. Votes are cast on a 3-2-1 basis for each league game. In the event of a tie, the player making the least number of appearances will be declared the winner.

Leading votegetters:
29 — Smith (Box Hill)
17 — Lazopoulos (WS)
20 — Quigley (North)
19 — Tuffield (Fawk), MacLean (Morw)
18 — Burton (Wilhel)

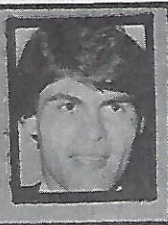
VSF Travel Club award

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Leading scorers:
20 — Smith (Box Hill)
17 — Przybyla (Pol)
16 — Moore (Morw), Cozzella (Fawk)
15 — Tuffield (Fawk), Lazopoulos (WS)
13 — Moore (Morw)
13 — House (Knox), Coyle (WS)

KAT'S CORNER

with PETER KATHOLOS



Media coverage a disgrace: Allan

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Don Allan gets angry when he sees what he calls media bias against soccer prevailing in Australia.

"The media doesn't do enough to promote the game here. Have a look at newspapers on a Saturday morning and see how much local soccer they contain. It's disgraceful," says the 30-year-old Melita Eagles midfielder.

"I don't know why that situation prevails. All we get up here (in Sydney) is Rugby League. Goodness knows why, for it's such a stupid game. I can't see the point of people running into each other and it beats me how parents could let their kids play that game."

Allan is the financial director of Grundy TV productions in Sydney. He's a qualified accountant, having successfully completed a degree in Business Studies, majoring in accountancy.

"Maybe international success can redress the imbalance in the media coverage of soccer compared with other football codes. Then again, when we competed in the 1974 World Cup finals in Germany there wasn't a big change in the Australian media's attitude to soccer. The one great legacy of our achievements in 1974 was the formation of the National League in 1977."

Allan was born in Sydney. His soccer career started as a junior with Gladesville Hornsby. As a 16-year-old he played for NSW in the national junior championships alongside Murray Barnes and Steve O'Connor, the Sydney City Hakoah stars.

He spent two seasons with the now defunct Western Suburbs and three with Granville, where he made his first grade debut. He was lured to Pan Hellenic (now Sydney Olympic) by then coach Raul Bianco, who now coaches Allan at Melita, and made his first team debut for Pan Hellenic against Sydney City Hakoah at Wentworth Park. It was as a central striker that Allan made his mark and won a regular spot in Olympic's line-up for the start of the National League.

Allan switched to Melita in 1979 for \$5,000 and has been there ever since. With Melita

coming into the National League this year, Allan is one of the few present players able to make comparisons between the 1977 NSL and the 1984 NSL.

"Early on, everything about the NSL was exciting — the great jump in standard, the crowds, travelling interstate. Looking at the playing standard right now, it doesn't seem to me that a lot has changed since 1977, even though the format of the league seems to change almost annually."

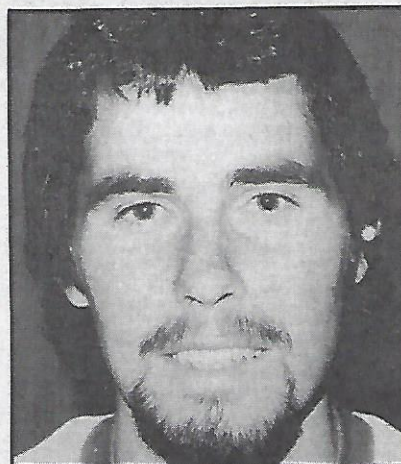
"We made a major change to the league format for this season, under a much-needed rationalisation program, so if we just throw the current format out the window we'll simply add to the confusion about the league. But I'm puzzled, to say the least, as to how we can have two Brisbane clubs in the southern league and I think that a basic mistake made this year has been holding inter and intra conference challenge games. If players are confused over the league format, how must spectators feel?"

"On a positive note, it's great to see how many Australian kids are coming through the ranks. That's something we didn't have back in 1977."

Allan reckons that he's been fortunate to be under good coaches throughout his career. Bruce Stowell and Bianco are two of the best in his book.

"A good coach is one who makes training varied and interesting. He also has to have something above the ordinary when it comes to tactical planning and motivation. Raul and Bruce are good coaches."

Bianco has switched Allan this year into midfield, where his duties primarily are defensive. Even at 30, players can learn and the responsibilities of Allan's new role certainly



Don Allan — Melita star and TV executive.

have taught him more about the game.

"It's been a learning situation for me this year. My role is to provide cover for the other midfielders and to win the ball and give it to Ray Farugia or John Davies. I'd like to score more goals because I believe every outfield player should be capable of scoring, whether he's a defender, midfielder or forward."

"But I'm very happy at Melita. Okay, injuries and a loss of form have caused us to go through a bad spell recently but I'm still confident that we'll make the top five and play in the finals."

When Melita and Sydney Croatia entered the National League this year some critics said that they'd struggle. They were called merely good State League sides playing in much tougher competition. Allan rejects the label.

"The key to having a good side is to keep the players together. When you rip the guts out of a side it takes a couple of years to recover. You see it happen so often. Look at Melita for example. We won the State League back in 1980 and

four or five players failed to renew contracts and left. It took us two seasons to get over that."

"Look at Sydney City. They don't chop and change players each year. You've got to keep your good players together. That's how success rolls along."

"We basically kept our squad together. We knew that it would be tougher in the National League but we had a good squad, we all knew each other on and off the field, and we knew that we could compete at this level."

"Personally, I had no worries about the standard of the NSL. I'll keep playing for as long as I enjoy training and playing. Enjoying training is really important to me. If I had to wait until Sunday to enjoy myself I'd pack it in. I like going to training and seeing the lads and doing the work."

When the day finally comes when training and playing don't give Allan enjoyment, will he then turn to coaching?

"No! No way. That's the job I can do without, thanks. It's a very, very difficult job and I don't see much joy in it."

No more unrest, so its Olympic's year

It's been said that Sydney Olympic's failure to win an NSL title has been one of the great mysteries of soccer.

That will change this year, as we're enjoying our best season yet, but it's worthwhile analysing the reasons for our past failures.

First, we must look at the mass exodus of players in 1983 — Jim Redfern, Andy Scott, Ken Wilson, Micky Cross, Alex Jamieson, Tony Gavin, Jim Ziras and George Akoutas.

When the club had to adjust to new players like Ricky Herbert, Marshall Soper and Jim Patikas, and up-and-coming youngsters like Terry Patalis, Tony Dakos and Chris Kalantzis.

This year we've had more new players in Nick Theodorakopoulos and Alex Lampropoulos. There were also changes in the committee and in coaches. We had Tommy Docherty in 1981, Doug Collins in 1982, Docherty again last year, and now Manfred Schaefer.

All those changes have kept the club from winning championships, although we did of course take out the National Cup last year.

This season, though, the team has been very stable, and fellows like Soper, Dakos, Patikas, Mike Coady and Peter Raskopoulos are of course outstanding talents, so the potential of the team is immense.

As individuals, they rank among the best in Australia, so it follows that we have not yet played our best soccer — not by a long way.

Although we haven't been drawing the crowds we had hoped for, I'm sure that when the top five series comes along, they'll come back in droves.

Where you finish among the top five does not really matter

— and I think the fans should be made aware of this. What does matter, is that you win the top five series, for the winner of that series will be the champion of the Conference, and the two Conference champions then will play off home and away for the national title.

Our record in knock-out competitions, or mini-series is excellent. We won the Challenge Cup and the National Cup, and so there's no reason why we shouldn't win the national championship.

State League successes

The NSW State League has ended, and a lot of congratulations are in order.

Inter-Monaro, for example, did tremendously well, reaping the benefits of having bought Sebastian Giampolo, Walter Valeri and Tony Brennan who all did so well this year.

Rockdale Ilinden, the team that came out of the woodwork and which wasn't really given a chance to be successful, shocked everyone with its fine form, as did Auburn Uruguay, under coach Ljube Gokovic.

I predicted early this year that Gokovic would take Auburn into the top four. Unfortunately, I was one out, as they finished fifth after going 11 weeks without a loss at one stage.

George Akoutas and Chris Townson, both ex-Olympic, did very well for Auburn, and top scorer John O'Shana helped the team achieve its high status by notching 10 during the season.

The club spent almost nothing on new players, but under

Gokovic's astute coaching, it has earned a lot of respect and can look forward to even bigger and better things in 1985.

Students belt Kiwis

The NSW Combined High Schools side touring New Zealand, started by crushing Combined North Auckland under 19s 8-1 and then won 5-1 against Toorunga City first grade team.

This is a very talented team with good cohesion, skill and flair, and I expect it to win the Australian secondary schools championship in Hobart.

The boys played a trail match against Olympic before leaving for New Zealand, and although they lost 2-5 after leading 1-0, they more than held their own.

Politics in sport?

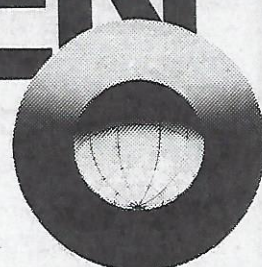
Many people believe that I have made enemies by writing this column and that this is one of the reasons I'm been excluded from the national squad.

I wouldn't have thought that possible, but then again, anything can happen in our soccer.

If someone doesn't like the way I think, it should have nothing to do with my ability as a player. Anyway, what about Joe Watson? He writes a column for another newspaper. And overseas, players write in a variety of newspapers and magazines "Shoot!" for example. Talk about politics in sport!

MORE SOCCER MORE OFTEN MORE ACTION MORE OFTEN

4.30 Monday **On The Ball.**
5.30 Saturday **World Soccer.**
7.30 Sunday **N.S.L. Match of the Day.**
Plus live telecasts of International matches from here and overseas.



NETWORK 10
Bringing the world back home

Giornata nera per le nostre in NSL miglior fortuna nelle divisioni minori

La ventitreesima giornata del campionato di Lega Nazionale e' finita con un "cappotto" a sfavore delle squadre italiane; alcune delle sconfitte sono state di misura, ma altre non ammettono appello.

Per quanto possa influire il fattore campo, tutte le squadre hanno giocato fuori casa e, specialmente per quelle che hanno viaggiato in altri Stati, ovviamente questo e' stato uno svantaggio che ha influito di qualche modo sui risultati.

Ma ovviamente bisogna ammettere che le sconfitte sono da ascrivere in maggior parte alla inferiorita' delle formazioni perdenti.

L'APIA non e' riuscita a ripetere la portentosa prestazione di due settimane fa ed ha ceduto al Sydney City per 2-1 in una partita combattutissima e tecnicamente eccellente. Oltre ai due punti persi dall'APIA, altra nota negativa e' stata fornita dal totale degli spettatori: un migliaio di persone ad assistere ad una partita di cartello fra due delle migliori squadre d'Australia!

Nell'altra importante partita di Sydney, fra l'Olympic e il Marconi, gli spettatori erano molto più numerosi, ma i tifosi greci erano la stragrande maggioranza. Se il pubblico italiano di Sydney continua a disertare gli stadi delle due squadre che militano nella massima divisione, con molto onore tutto sommato, non vediamo come le due squadre possano sopravvivere. Può darsi benissimo che se il pubblico non risponde più al fascino dello sport tradizionalmente "del cuore" e' segno che c'e' qualcosa che non va e prima o poi la situazione diventera' intollerabile per le amministrazioni che debbono finanziare da altre fonti le attività della squadra di calcio.

Comunque anche il Marconi ha finito la partita con una sconfitta, molto netta (2-4) rispetto a quella di misura dell'APIA, e le due squadre italiane sono ormai rilette a posizioni di classifica che precludono loro ogni possibilita' di bat-

tersi per il campionato nelle rimanenti cinque giornate, anche se possono considerarsi fra le cinque finaliste del torneo di fine stagione; almeno l'APIA, poiche' margine di sicurezza del Marconi e' ormai ridotto a pochi punti.

Domenica prossima pero' il Marconi dovrebbe far un sol boccone del finalino di coda Wollongong e seminare le sue inseguitrici: per l'APIA la partita con il Sydney Croatia non e' neppure tanto facile, ma gli uomini di Bortolotto dovrebbero portare a casa i due punti.

La Juventus di Melbourne e' anche incapace in una sconfitta, un 1-2 contro il Brisbane Lions a Brisbane. I padroni di casa hanno così raggiunto i bianconeri a quota 24 punti e li hanno scavalcati grazie ad un miglior quoziente reti spondendosi dal quarto posto.

La prossima settimana sarà cruciale per le speranze della Juventus di rimanere fra le prime cinque e disputare il girone finale poiche' si trovera' di fronte la capolista Heidelberg, mentre il JUST che e' in sesta posizione deve vedersela con il finalino di coda del George Cross. Stando ai pronostici, la squadra jugoslava dovrebbe fare lo sgambetto ai bianconeri ed insediarsi nella quinta poltrona.

Dopo il prossimo turno, il calendario vedra' le due contendenti per la quinta poltrona impegnate tutte e due contro il Croatia e il Preston, con l'altro incontro che vedra' la Juventus opposta al George Cross e il JUST alla Juventus di Adelaide. Potrebbe darsi benissimo pero' che il JUST e Juventus si giocheranno la

quinta poltrona nell'ultima partita "challenge".

Senza andare troppo lontano, non e' da escludere che almeno anche il Green Gully potrebbe aspirare ad un posticino al sole; i suoi prossimi impegni sono contro Preston, Brisbane Lions, Croatia e George Cross (le stesse tre avversarie di Juventus e JUST con la variante del Brisbane Lions). Se i bianconeri dovessero battere il Preston domenica e portarsi ad un solo punto dal JUST (ammettendo che vince) e della Juventus (ammettendo che perde), potrebbero diventare una seria minaccia alle ambizioni di Juventus e JUST.

Da parte sua il Brisbane Lions non dovrebbe correre seri rischi di scivolare dalla rosa delle finaliste poiche' il suo calendario per il resto della stagione e' relativamente più facile (Melita Eagles, Green Gully, Hellas, Brisbane City) con un solo incontro veramente difficile.

Quindi l'interesse nel girone "nazionale" si potra' quasi sicuramente fino all'ultima giornata sia per la prima posizione in classifica (ancora in ballottaggio fra Heidelberg, Hellas e Croatia) che per le cinque prime poltrone che dara' diritto di disputare le finali.

La prestazione della Juventus a Brisbane, a parte la sconfitta, ha messo dei seri dubbi sulla lenta ripresa della Juventus che si era intravista nelle ultime settimane. Purtroppo la sterilita' dell'attacco e' continuata con Sweeney ancora inconcludente al punto da essere sostituito da Ward (che sembra abbia toccato la palla delle reti bianconere addebitata come autorete al portiere avversario).

In difesa ha brillato nuovamente il portiere Martin, ma gli sbandamenti sono stati non pochi, anzi sembra che almeno uno dei difensori bianconeri

VIVA ITALIA! with ROCKY DI ZIO



(ed un centrocampista) abbia perso le staffe ed usato le mani durante la partita e l'intervallo. Non si conosce ancora il contenuto del rapporto arbitrale, ma potrebbe anche darsi che qualche giocatore juventino dovra' presentarsi davanti al tribunale della Lega.

Quella di Brisbane e' stata comunque l'ultima trasferta della Juventus che giochera' le ultime cinque partite a Melbourne di fronte al suo pubblico. Dipendera' quindi molto anche dai tifosi bianconeri se la loro squadra riuscirà a compiere la non facile impresa di conquistare la quinta poltrona nel suo primo campionato di Lega Nazionale.

A proposito della prossima partita, quella di domenica contro il Heidelberg all'Olympic Park, e' bene tener presente che nel vicino M.C.G. si svolgera' una partita di finale del football e che quindi il traffico sara' caotico ed i parcheggi molto difficili da trovarsi, poiche' ci tiene a vedere questa importante partita fara' bene a partire presto e magari a compiere l'ultimo tragitto con il tram o con il treno (alla stazione di Richmond).

RIUNIONE DELLA LEGA

Sabato prossimo ci sara' la riunione del comitato direttivo della Lega Nazionale per studiare le varie proposte di riorganizzazione del campionato per il prossimo anno.

Questo tentativo di rimettere la barca vacillante sulla

rotta giusta difficilmente riuscirà nell'intento a cause dei convergenti interessi del club e delle federazioni. Piuttosto che un tentativo di trovare la soluzione migliore ad un problema di non facile soluzione, la riunione potrebbe degenerare in una rissa fra gente che sembra più preoccupata a vincere battaglie senza preoccuparsi della guerra.

Innanzitutto sara' difficile che dalla riunione possa uscire un piano definitivo; ma anche se dovesse accadere tale miracolo e' certo che esso verra' ridotto in un colabrodo da tanti franchi tiratori che per ragioni personali o per egoistici interessi di club non saranno d'accordo con qualsiasi decisione presa.

Nemmeno noi abbiamo la soluzione ideale al grave problema che affligge il calcio locale (ed il calcio non e' l'unico sport ad essere in crisi), ma crediamo che tutti gli esperti veri e fasulli stanno dimenticando il fattore base della situazione: il pubblico non va alle partite in numero sufficiente per mantenere qualsiasi formula di competizione.

Questo e' segno che lo spettacolo che si offre agli spettatori non e' tale da giustificare i salari prezzati d'entrata alle partite. Le soluzioni sono due: offrire uno spettacolo migliore in modo che il pubblico possa essere disposto a "comprarlo", oppure ammettere che quello che e' in giro non vale il prezzo per il quale lo si cerca di vendere.

E per "spettacolo", oltre al livello tecnico ed agonistico della partita, intendiamo tutto

il resto che costituisce un pomeriggio allo stadio, come comodita', autoparcheggio, adeguati servizi igienici, chioschi per l'acquisto di cibi e bevande.

Quando il pubblico vuole veramente andare ad assistere a qualsiasi sport, il formato del campionato diventa una considerazione secondaria; ma quando il pubblico e' stanco della solita "insipida minestra" i soldi possono inventare le più brillanti formule di leghe e contropiegate e non riusciranno mai a tirare un ragno dal buco.

LEGHE STATALI

L'inter Monaro, battendo nettamente il modesto Avala per 3-0 si e' laureato campione statale del N.S.W. e avrebbe perciò diritto ad essere ammesso alla Lega Nazionale il prossimo anno; almeno stando a quello che erano di regolamenti e le aspettative all'inizio dell'anno.

Come stanno le cose adesso la vittoria del campionato non si sa esattamente cosa significhi, a parte la soddisfazione di essersi stati i primi della propria classe.

Nella Lega Statale del Victoria l'inaspettata sconfitta

subita dal lanciatissimo Morwell Falcons ha fatto riaccendere le speranze del Fawkner e del Polonia che ora si trovano a sole tre punti dalla capolista.

Con solo tre turni rimasti alla fine del campionato recuperare tre punti ai Falcons di Morwell non sara' pero' un'impresa facile.

Comunque vadano le cose ormai e' sicuro che una squadra italiana ha vinto il campionato del N.S.W. ed e' quasi sicuro che un'altra squadra italiana fara' altrettanto nel campionato del Victoria poiche' se, per qualche inopinato caso, il Morwell dovesse non farcela saranno sicuramente gli Azzurri del Fawkner a precedere il Polonia sotto striscione d'arrivo.

LEGHE MINORI

Nelle leghe minori sembra ormai scontato che Thomastown, Dallas McLeod e Westall si laureeranno campioni delle loro rispettive divisioni.

Triestina, Regent, Bullen, East Brunswick e Regent hanno condotto degli ottimi campionati ed alcune di esse possono ancora sperare in un secondo posto che assicurerebbe la promozione alla divisione maggiore.

Altona Gate kids tops



By invitation from the South Australian Soccer Federation, Altona Gate under 12, 14 and 16 took part in a two day tournament in Mount Gambier.

Beside Altona Gate in the tournament were Keilor Australia, Karling Juniors from Victoria and the top junior teams from South Australia: Croatia, Beograd, Inter and Milicity.

Every team played against each other and the first two place-getters played in for the trophy.

All of the Altona Gate Junior teams were placed in the finals they impressed the public with their high standard of soccer, great courage and discipline on and off the field.

They received high praise from the federation, public and all the teams which played against them.

Here are the complete results from the tournament and the goalscorers from the games in which Altona Gate was involved.

Under 12
First Round:
Altona Gate defeated Milicity 10:0

Goalscorers: Jim Gacovski 4, Robert Stojceviski 2, Marjan Tasevski 1, Robert Andonovski 1, Robert Trifunovski 1 and Goran Lozanovski 1.

Second Round:
Altona Gate defeated Beograd 2:1

Goalscorers: Jim Gacovski 1 and Robert Stojceviski 1.

Third Round:
Altona Gate defeated Karling 4:1

Goalscorers: Jim Gacovski 3 and Robert Andonovski 1.

Final:
Altona Gate defeated Keilor 3:0

Goalscorers: Robert Ando-

novski 2 and Jim Gacovski 1.

Under 14 Results:

First Round:

Altona Gate defeated Croatia Adelaide 7:0.

Goalscorers: John Stojanovski 2, Billy Romanovski 2, Arthur Davis 1, Goran Josovski 1 and Slobodan Causovski 1.

Second Round:

Altona Gate defeated Keilor Austria 5:0.

Goalscorers: Billy Romanovski 2, Arthur Davis 1, Zoran Todorovski 1 and Goran Josovski 1.

Third Round:

Altona Gate defeated Karling 14:1.

Goalscorers: Arthur Davis 4, John Stojanovski 4, Zoran Todorovski 1, Robert Butrakovski 2, Zoran Tasevski 1, Goran Josovski 1 and Slobodan Causovski 1.

Final:

Altona Gate defeated Beograd 2:0.

Goalscorers: Billy Romanovski 1 and Slobodan Causovski 1.

Under 16 Results:

First Round:

Altona Gate defeated Croatia 5:0.

Goalscorers: Mendo Ilievski 1, Sime Micevski 1, Lube Maticevski 1, Dragi Mitrevski 1 and Toni Gorevski 1.

Second Round:

Altona Gate lost to Iner 2:3.

Goalscorers: Lube Maticevski 1 and Dragi Mitrevski 1.

Third Round:

Altona Gate defeated Keilor Austria 2:0.

Goalscorers: Sime Micevski 1 and Dusan Stojceviski 1.

Final:

Altona Gate defeated Inter 2:1.

Goalscorers: Sime Micevski 1 and Flavio Rinvenuto 1.

As we can see from the results Altona Gate Junior teams played 12 matches in all, won 11 and lost one with the impressive goal difference of 58 goals for and only 7 against.

HAIL POPOVIC!

Due to a typographical error, Vlada Popovic wasn't named as a committeeman in our Footscray J.U.S.T. double-page feature last week.

Mr. Popovic has been a staunch supporter of J.U.S.T. for 30 years and for the last three years he has been on the club's committee. He's also one of J.U.S.T.'s major sponsors and has donated a five figure sum to the club this year.

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FORZA JUVE!

Richard Miranda, il forte centrocampista della Juventus di Melbourne, ha dimostrato largamente la fiducia riposta in lui dai tecnici bianconeri che lo avevano ripescato dalla Lega Statale dopo che il Preston lo aveva ceduto al Box Hill. Sfortunatamente per Richard, e per la Juventus, la sua convocazione in nazionale B si e' conclusa con un grave infortunio che lo ha tenuto lontano dai campi di gioco fino ad alcune settimane fa.



TOP SOCCER THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY SEPT 8 & SUNDAY SEPT. 9



AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE



*Nick Malavazos
West Adelaide*

CANBERRA ARROWS
V
WEST ADELAIDE
Bruce Stadium Sunday 2pm

Previous NSL results
West Adelaide 6 wins
Canberra Arrows 2 wins
6 draws

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
V
ADELAIDE CITY
Adamstown Oval Saturday 2.30pm

Previous NSL results
Newcastle 5 wins
Adelaide City 1 win
5 draws



*Ralph Miller
Newcastle*



*Tony Dakos
Sydney Olympic*

SYDNEY OLYMPIC
V
BLACKTOWN
Pratten Park Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
Olympic 3 wins

PENRITH CITY
V
ST GEORGE
Cook Park Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
1 draw



*Roy Cotton
Penrith*



*Greg Woodhouse
Sydney Croatia*

SYDNEY CROATIA
V
LEIGHARDT
King Tomislav Park Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
Sydney Croatia 1 win

WOLLONGONG CITY
V
MARCONI
Wollongong Showgrounds
Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
Marconi 3 wins
Wollongong 2 wins
2 draws



*Peter Willis
Wollongong*

NATIONAL CONFERENCE



*Tony Pozzano
Sydney City*

SYDNEY CITY
V
BRISBANE CITY
Sydney Athletic Field Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
Sydney City 6 wins
Brisbane City 4 wins
2 draws

MELITA EAGLES
V
BRISBANE LIONS
Melita Stadium Sunday 3pm

No Previous NSL results



*Danny Wright
Brisbane Lions*



*Gary McDowell
Footscray*

FOOTSCRAY
V
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS
Chaplin Reserve Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
Footscray 1 win

GREEN GULLY
V
PRESTON
Gully Reserve Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
1 draw



*Paul Lewis
Green Gully*



*Joe Sweeney
Juventus*

JUVENTUS
V
HEIDELBERG
Olympic Park No. 2 Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
Juventus 1 win
Heidelberg 1 win

SOUTH MELBOURNE
V
MELBOURNE CROATIA
Middle Park Sunday 3pm

Previous NSL results
South Melbourne 1 win



*John Yzendoorn
South Melbourne*